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A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORD PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION

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Marvelous Spatuletail, Huembo Reserve, Peru, by Dubi Shapiro

ON THE COVER: This unusual rusty-capped Prothonotary Warbler was found in mangrove swamp along the Río Salado in the Parque Nacional Cuero y Salado, Honduras 11 March 2013. Oddly enough, an identical bird was photographed about 25 kilometers away on 12 March 2008 in the mangroves in the Parque Nacional Punta Izopo, northeast of Tela, Honduras. The reason for this plumage is not known. *Photograph by Steve Hamilton.*

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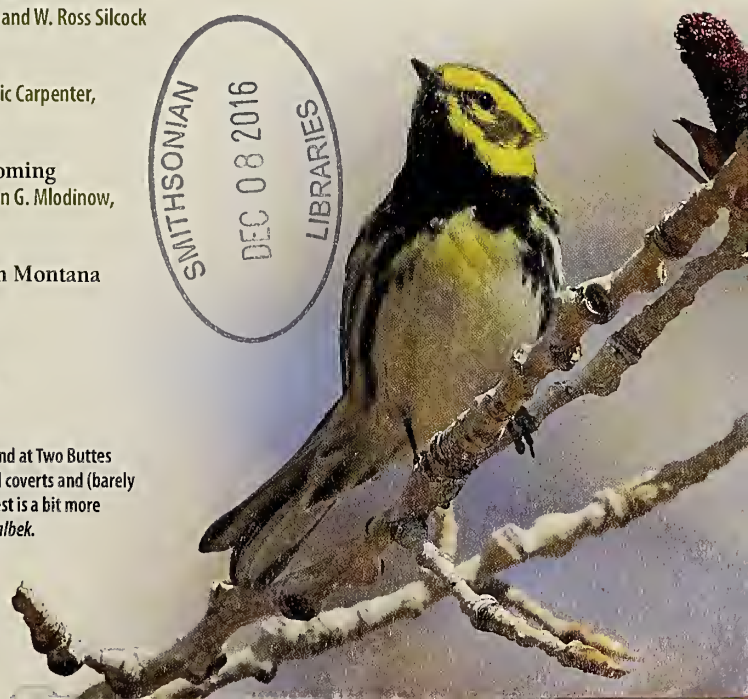

This stunning male warbler appears to be a Black-throated Green Warbler x Townsend's Warbler hybrid. It was found at Two Buttes State Wildlife Area, Baca County, Colorado 10 May 2013 and was present the next day. Note the streaked undertail coverts and (barely visible) black streaking on crown, which indicate Townsend's Warbler heritage. Additionally, the yellow on the chest is a bit more extensive than typical for Black-throated Green Warbler and the cheek more solidly olive. *Photograph by Glenn Walbek.*

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North American Birds (ISSN 1525-3708) (USPS 872-200) is published quarterly by the American Birding Association, Inc. Periodicals postage paid at Colorado Springs, Colorado, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: return postage guaranteed; send address changes and POD forms 3579 to *North American Birds*, 1618 West Colorado Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80904; (800) 850-2473. Subscription prices: $30/year (US) and US$35/year (Canada). Copyright © 2014 by the American Birding Association, Inc., all rights reserved. Printed by Publishers Printing, Shepherdsville, Kentucky. The views and opinions expressed in this magazine are those of each contributing writer and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the American Birding Association or its management. ABA is not responsible for the quality of products or services advertised in *North American Birds*, unless the products or services are being offered directly by the Association. GST Registration No. R135943454.

Editors' Notebook

Our Heroes

We raise a glass again to our generous donors to the Friends of *North American Birds* Fund, whose beneficence again permitted us to operate in the black ink and to bring you as many pages and as much color ink as possible. Without them, even with our many belt-tightening measures over the past decade, the journal would be smaller and less colorful—and probably resemble a newsletter! So if you happen to run into one of these good folks in the field (see sidebar), please let them know how much you appreciate their extra effort in making this publication possible. (And maybe let them talk you into joining them in the donors' circle next year...)

Rare Birds of North America

When SORA (<sora.unm.edu>) agreed to host back issues of *North American Birds* and its predecessors, our observations became accessible to millions virtually overnight. In this context, the new *Rare Birds of North America* by the prolific Steve N. G. Howell, Ian Lewington, and Will Russell (Princeton University Press, 2014) is another enormous gift to our tradition and to people who seek to understand bird movements all over the globe. In the opening paragraph of the Acknowledgments, the authors offer "great thanks to the editors and regional editors of the fine journal *North American Birds* (and its predecessors); these are unsung heroes whose work made our job far less challenging than it otherwise would have been." What a balm are these words of thanks and praise, nearly the first of their kind—and some of the journal's editors, most notably Guy McCaskie and Bob Paxton, have volunteered their services for more than fifty consecutive years. It feels good to be appreciated but even better to have one's work carefully mined for records and for reflections on those records.

Rare Birds was a daunting and a delicate undertaking, requiring much diligence to research the thousands of records it treats but also some diplomacy. After all, truly rare birds—the authors' general rule of thumb for rarity being fewer than five records per year, on average—are often enigmatic, difficult to study because of their scarcity. And rarities with little or no pattern of occurrence are often regarded with skepticism, usually because there is some concern that they have escaped captivity of some sort. Although many species treated in *Rare Birds* do show clear patterns of occurrence (for instance, Common Sandpiper), others do not, and their treatment by records committees can be uneven, not to say controversial. Entering this fray requires respect for the many different points of view of dozens of committees and editors but also an ability to envision the larger picture.

The team of Howell, Russell, and Lewington bring a refreshing combination to this work: the text reads with fairness, candor, and an appreciation of the necessarily gray area occupied by many records. We don't, after all, really know how an extralimital bird gets to the site of its discovery, but we can make educated guesses. The authors balance an ability to imagine vectors of vagrancy with the agnosticism that comes with the territory: they seem comfortable with uncertainty, often airing a multitude of scenarios about different species or individual vagrants. In some narratives on rare birds, the birds seem to function as coveted baubles, or numbers, or bones of contention or competition. The relaxed voice of *Rare Birds* is quite the opposite—free of *shenpa*, the attachment, to the rarity-as-scarce-commodity, and free from the attachment to being-right sometimes encountered in this arena. Exhaustive without being exhausting, rigorous without being rigid, the book reads like the voice of a friendly mentor who wants nothing more than to share densely condensed reflection and unfinished analysis in a relaxed, inclusive conversation. The introduction and even species accounts take a Socratic tack at times, often generating more questions than answers. In this remarkable book, though, there is surprisingly no mention of the excitement we experience in the discovery of rare birds, no hint of their association with triumph or trophy. Perhaps, in an age of rapid climate change and increasing bird vagrancy, that is just as well. What comes through clearly, however, is a deep sense of wonder about the abilities of birds to travel thousands of miles out of range—and a sense of humility about how little we understand migration and vagrancy in birds.

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In a novel twist, the authors treat clusters of species based on their common area of origin (Middle America, Caribbean, Europe, eastern Asia) rather than organizing them in phylogenetic procession. This permits the dominant consideration of each section—how and when rare birds appear out of range in the United States and Canada—to be examined in multiple contexts. The forty-page introduction, which has abundant original thinking about bird vagrancy but also a meticulous distillation of the many years of speculative commentary in "Changing Seasons" and other parts of this journal, prepares the reader to engage not a field guide but instead a sustained meditation on the movements of birds found out of range and how to identify them (or whether identification is even possible). Species absent, for a variety of reasons, from current field guides to birds of the United States and Canada—Blue Rock Thrush, West Indian Whistling-Duck, Azure Gallinule, Blyth's Reed Warbler, Southern Lapwing—are countenanced fully in *Rare Birds*, thoughtfully placed into the larger context of bird vagrancy from Eurasia, the West Indies, and South America, along with other species. The authors offer their rationale for including these birds explicitly, often offering alternative ways of interpreting the records while acknowledging the sometimes differing decisions of records committees. In some cases, the species accounts employ taxonomies or names that will be unfamiliar to some North American readers (Northern Boobook, Chilean Elaenia, Kamchatka Leaf Warbler, Chatham Albatross, Siberian Stonechat), with sources for these usages provided in all cases.

Rare Birds, then, does far more than summarize or digest bird records. It urges us to evaluate, and re-evaluate, not just a few records but constantly to imagine new ways to understand the fascinating movements of birds. We inhabit a field of study with countless unknowns. *Rare Birds* encourages us to acknowledge these, to ponder over them, to try to solve them, to anticipate future and analogous records of vagrants, and most importantly to question. The authors ask their readers to partner with them, to become peers in considering the status, the identification, and even the taxonomic placement of many birds, including some that for various reasons have not been included in accounts of North American birds.

And why not offer readers the full story on some of the unsanctioned records and alternative taxonomies? After all, our understanding of vagrancy, of plumages, and of evolutionary relationships evolves constantly. Many "records," even some that rest on specimen material, are worth re-consideration. *Rare Birds* as a book may appear to wrap up all the records from 1950-2011 and put a big red bow on them for us, but in truth what the book gives us is a snapshot of our best current efforts—a very formidable snapshot but not the final word. Our history continues to be revised, to evolve, with our changing understanding of birds. The greatest contribution of *Rare Birds* to our tradition may not be its condensation and collocation of so much data, not its original theoretical work, or not even its stunning and informative artwork, but rather its patient demonstration of the value of lively and calm, critical and open thinking about the movements of birds.

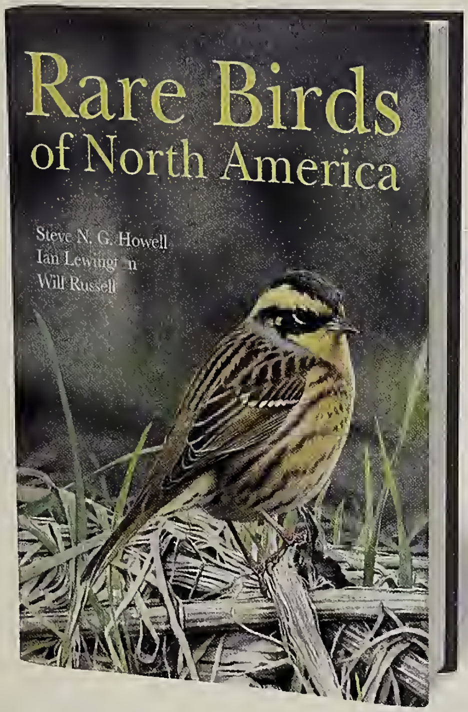
Coming features & errata

As this journal moves toward its new format, into the brave new world, we find ourselves also looking backward on where we have been, on records of the twentieth century, among them recently the last few observations of Bachman's Warbler and Eskimo Curlew. Most of us know nothing about these experiences, and we wanted to publish the stories in all their dimensions, including the emotional. We don't want to step into the twenty-first century (however belatedly) without giving countenance to these exceptional experiences. Too, we have wanted to tie together some other loose ends, some of the older records that, for one reason or other, have seemed to need a second look: European Honey Buzzard in Delaware, Zino's Petrel in North Carolina, White-tailed Eagle in New York, and hopefully soon features on a discussion-provoking golden-plover in Delaware and puzzling large swifts in the East. Some of these records are mentioned briefly in *Rare Birds*; most come from the pre-internet, pre-digital age; and all have occasioned extensive exchanges, though sometimes through a glass darkly, with insufficient information about the taxa involved. These birds remind us how little we know at any given point in our odyssey, whether we are amateurs or professionals, but how fruitful the pursuit and application of greater understanding can sometimes be, even years later.

North American Birds will continue to come to grips with variation in species and subspecies—in this issue an all-but-forgotten subspecies of Red-tailed Hawk, in the next issue the often-perplexing Bean Goose (bean-geese?). We'll continue to showcase new additions to the avifaunas of countries and islands in our area of coverage (anyone see a Rufous-necked Wood-Rail last year? or Common Redstart?). We'll communicate new developments in bird conservation work related to our own observations of changing status and distribution (an article on Bermuda Petrel conservation is in development). And we will preserve all of the elements of the journal that our readers have come to expect and appreciate—all in full color, and all fully searchable, as the realm of digital publication now affords us. Perhaps, the next time a team of authors dares to undertake a *Rare Birds of North America* project, they will be able to search for species by computer, rather than sifting through piles of paper journals for many years, poring over every word and line!

In closing, we confess to several errors in the previous issue, which accidentally went to press as the near-final version rather than the final. Among the blunders: Missouri is missing an "i" (p. 222), the caption for Red-footed Booby is missing the phrase "north of Mexico" (p. 363), a Grasshopper Sparrow record was assigned to the wrong year (2013 instead of 2012; p. 364), and Hawaii's first American Bittern was excitedly called "the bird the bird" (p. 366). Our feature article, on orange-billed terns, was missing a record in Table 1, and its histograms were printed in black and white. Fortunately, all of these items were corrected for the digital version of this issue, which is now available at <http://nab.aba.org>.

Oh, and the spring records of Razorbill in Texas and Mississippi and Northern Lapwings in Ontario that we missed mentioning in the winter essay? They're in this issue. Dig in, and dig it.



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Northern Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis abieticola*) revisited

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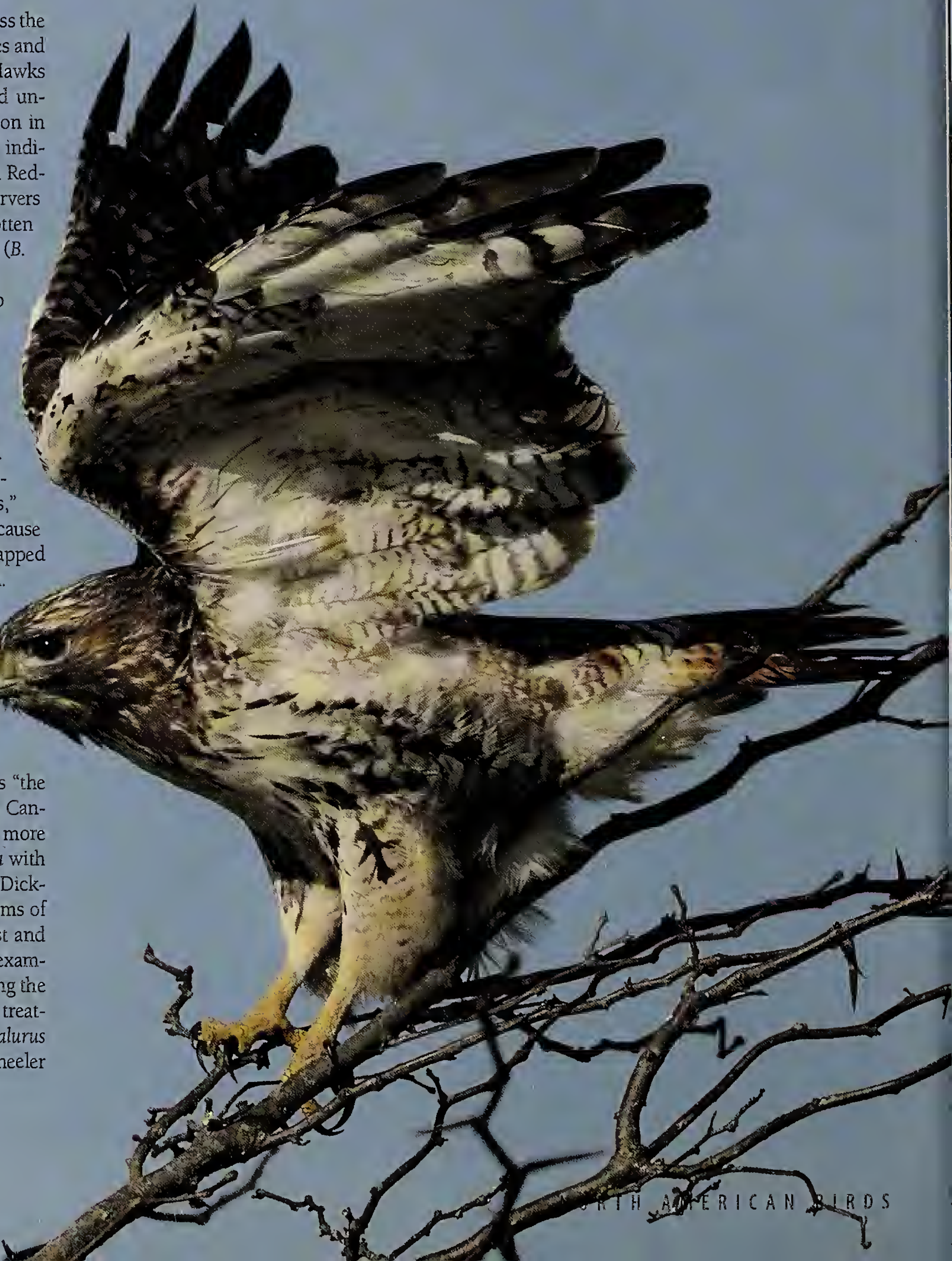
During migration and winter across the central and eastern United States and southern Canada, Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) with heavily marked underparts have been a source of confusion in recent decades. In many cases, such individuals have been identified as Western Red-tailed Hawks (*B. j. calurus*). Few observers have considered another, almost forgotten alternative: Northern Red-tailed Hawk (*B. j. abieticola*).

W. E. Clyde Todd was the first to describe this subspecies in "A Northern Race of Red-tailed Hawk" (1950). Among the differences from typical Eastern Red-tailed Hawk (*B. j. borealis*) that Todd noted were a dark throat, more richly colored underparts, and a heavier bellyband. Todd named the subspecies *abieticola* ("dweller of the firs," *Abies* being the genus of true firs) because he believed its breeding range overlapped extensively with that of Balsam Fir (*A. balsamea*).

Despite its recognition by at least some subsequent authors, *abieticola* has remained obscure to most ornithologists and birders. Dickerman and Parkes (1987) offered evidence in support of Todd's work, identifying *abieticola* as "the breeding race of the spruce-fir belt of Canada west to Alberta" and providing a more comprehensive comparison of *abieticola* with both *borealis* and *calurus*. Importantly, Dickerman and Parkes (1987) reviewed claims of light-morph *calurus* from the Northeast and found that all referred to well-marked examples of *abieticola*. Red-tailed Hawks fitting the description of *abieticola* are sometimes treated as intergrades between *borealis* and *calurus* (see Clark and Wheeler 1997, Wheeler



2004); other authors have treated *abieticola* as a more heavily marked type of *borealis* (Liguori 2001, 2005, 2011; Sullivan 2011; Crossley et al. 2013). Most texts that treat the species omit mention of *abieticola*, with a few notable exceptions (e.g., Pittaway 1993).

This paper seeks to highlight what we know about the distribution and identification of *abieticola* and to inspire the birding community to look more closely at plumages of Red-tailed Hawks. Photographs included here (Figures 1-19) feature mostly typical *abieticola*, with the intent of defining the distinguishing features of this taxon for a new generation of naturalists and birders.

Distribution

Red-tailed Hawk breeds from tree line in the North through the Caribbean and southern Central America and shows extensive variation across its range, even within the numerous generally accepted subspecies. In North America, most birders are familiar with the widespread Eastern and Western subspecies. The lesser-known subspecies in North America (e.g., *harlani*, *alascensis*, *abieticola*) are distributed across vast, often inaccessible breeding areas, and studying them during the breeding season is challenging; presumably frequent (but rarely documented) interbreeding of subspecies complicates study still more. In the West, the breeding range of *abieticola* overlaps with the ranges of *calurus* and *harlani*, and recent genetic studies suggest that some gene flow between these latter two taxa may occur (Hull et al. 2010), and it seems likely *abieticola* fits this model. However, few mixed pairs have been documented so that phenotype could be examined (see e.g., Sullivan 2011, in which an *abieticola*-like bird is paired with a *harlani*). *Abieticola* breeds with *borealis* where their ranges blend at the southern periphery of the boreal forest; the authors have reviewed documentation of mixed pairs from Alberta (Kara Donahue) and from northern New England (Maine, New Hampshire). More work on nesting Red-tailed Hawks in southern Canada and the U.S. border states would likely reveal more such pairs, as has been the case,

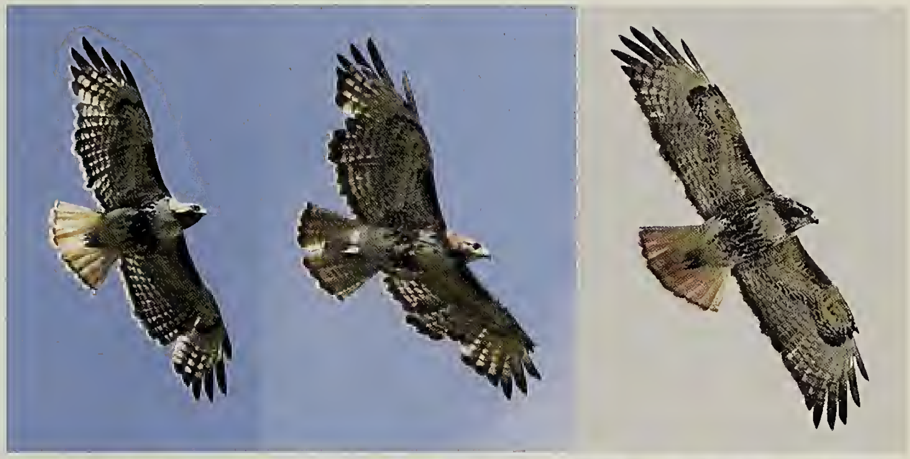


Figure 2. Three *abieticola* near Watson Lake, Yukon. Note blobby bellyband, dark throat, and faintly banded tail (left bird; after-second-year bird; June); heavy bellyband, pale throat with dark border, and boldy banded tail (middle; third-year bird; June); and extensive blobby bellyband, pale throat with dark border, faintly banded tail, and retained juvenile band-tipped outer primaries, shown by many *borealis* and *abieticola* but very rarely by *calurus* (right; third-year bird; May). Compare these birds, and those in Figures 1, 3-19, with "classic" *borealis* and *calurus*, depicted in Figure 20, on the final page. *Photographs by Jukka Jantunen.*

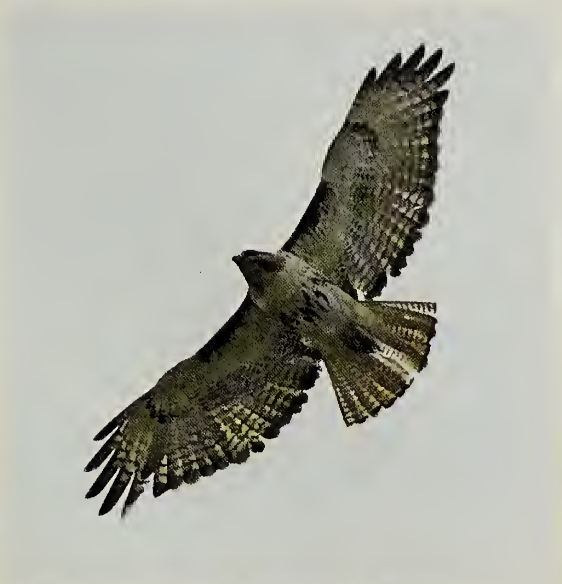


Figure 3. Breeding after-third-year *abieticola* at Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, 2 August 2013. Note the *borealis*-like appearance of this bird but the fully banded tail. *Photograph by Reid Hildebrandt.*

Figure 4. Breeding after-third-year male *abieticola* at Gunsight Mountain, Alaska, 9 May 2011 (below). Bellyband, tail pattern, and dark-bordered pale throat are *abieticola*-like, while the degree of rufous in the underwing coverts approaches that of *calurus*. This bird's mate was a light-morph female *harlani*. *Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.*

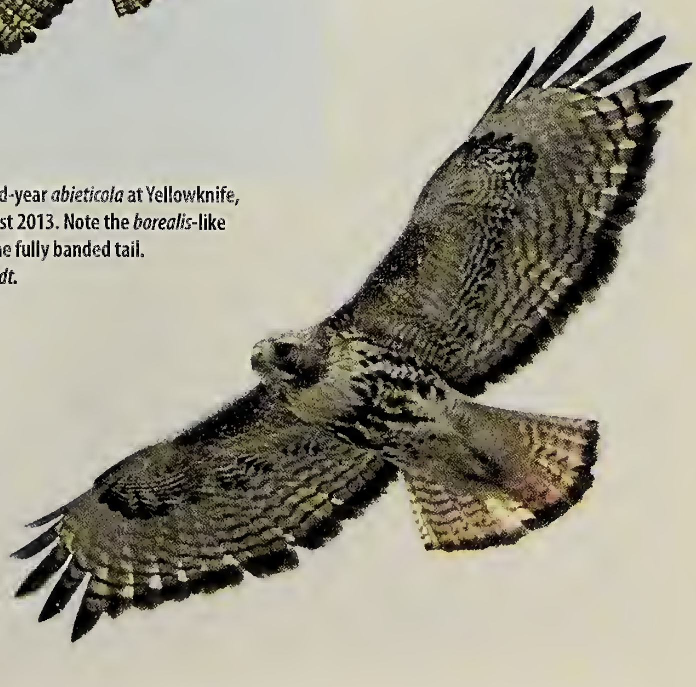


Figure 1. This striking after-second-year Red-tailed Hawk (left) is a beautiful example of the little-known subspecies *abieticola*, Northern Red-tailed Hawk. It was identified by its fully banded tail, dark throat, heavy bellyband, and strong patagial bar. *Abieticola* is sometimes considered a heavily marked version of Eastern Red-tailed Hawk (subspecies *borealis*) but is usually distinguishable from other subspecies and appears to be a widespread breeder in the boreal forest from central Alaska to Labrador. This bird was photographed near Tunica, Mississippi, 21 December 2009. Age terminology in this article is based on calendar year, the system used in bird banding. *Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.*

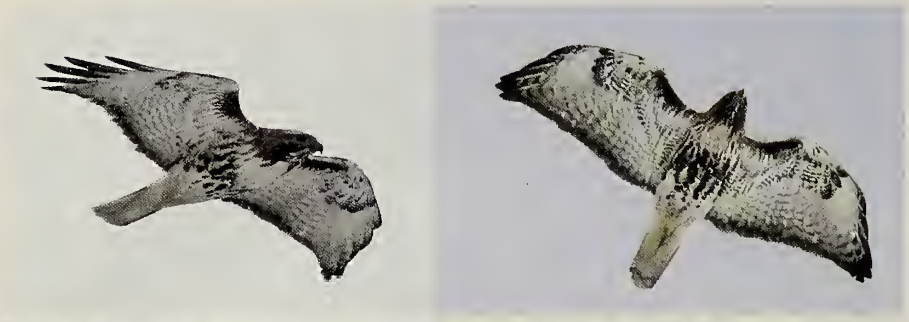


Figure 5. After-third-year *abieticola* migrants at Gunsight Mountain, Alaska, 10 April 2009. These were potentially the first *abieticola* reported in Alaska, but the subspecies has been noted in small numbers there since 2009. Note prominent bellybands, streaked chest sides, dark throats, and rufous wash to chest (right). *Photographs by Jerry Liguori.*

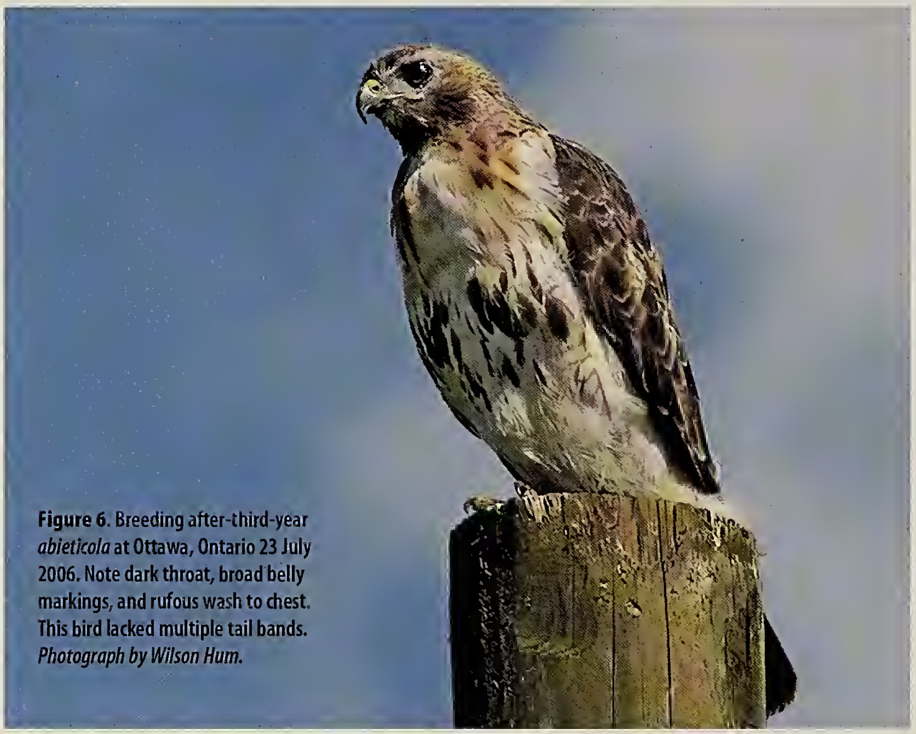


Figure 6. Breeding after-third-year *abieticola* at Ottawa, Ontario 23 July 2006. Note dark throat, broad belly markings, and rufous wash to chest. This bird lacked multiple tail bands. *Photograph by Wilson Hum.*

for instance, with Krider's Red-tailed Hawk (*B. j. kriderii*) (see Figure 9d in Liguori and Sullivan 2010b and Figure 6 in Sullivan and Liguori 2010; in both cases, female *abieticola* are identified as heavily marked *borealis*).

An extensive review by the authors of photographs and of specimens indicates that breeding records for typical *abieticola* span the boreal forest from central Alaska to Labrador. The boreal forest shows remarkably little change in species composition from western Alaska to Atlantic Canada, and several widespread bird species that otherwise show pronounced geographic variation are represented by a single subspecies in this habitat, e.g., Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*), Yellow-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*), and Myrtle Warbler (*Setophaga coronata coronata*). In this context, a far larger breeding range for *abieticola* than described by Todd (1950) or Dickerman and Parkes (1987) would not be surprising.

The extent of the wintering range of *abieticola* is not known. A collaborative effort over the past decade to study thousands of photographs of Red-tailed Hawks across North America (Liguori, Sullivan, Lish, and many others) suggests that *abieticola* winters largely from the Great Plains (see Dickerman 1989) eastward through the Northeast and sparingly into the northern mid-Atlantic states; thus its winter range overlaps extensively with that of *borealis*. The authors are aware of no records of *abieticola* from the Carolinas through Florida, and only a few records are known from Gulf coastal states. The collaborative study of photographs, and the authors' extensive observations of Red-tailed Hawks in the western United States (1997-2014), suggest that *abieticola* is very uncommon or rare from the Rocky Mountains westward in winter, with few birds documented from the region.

Migration routes in *abieticola* are also little known. The authors' 1993-2013 seasonal studies of raptor migration at sites on the Great Lakes (Derby Hill, NY; Braddock Bay, NY; Whitefish Point, MI; Hawk Ridge, MN) and on the Atlantic coast (Cape May Point, NJ; Kiptopeke, VA), together with the recent collaborative photographic study, suggest a mostly central and easterly migration route for *abieticola*; this route fits well with a wintering range that lies mostly east of the Rockies. Among the up to 8000 Red-tailed Hawks that pass through the Pembina Valley of Manitoba in spring, for in-

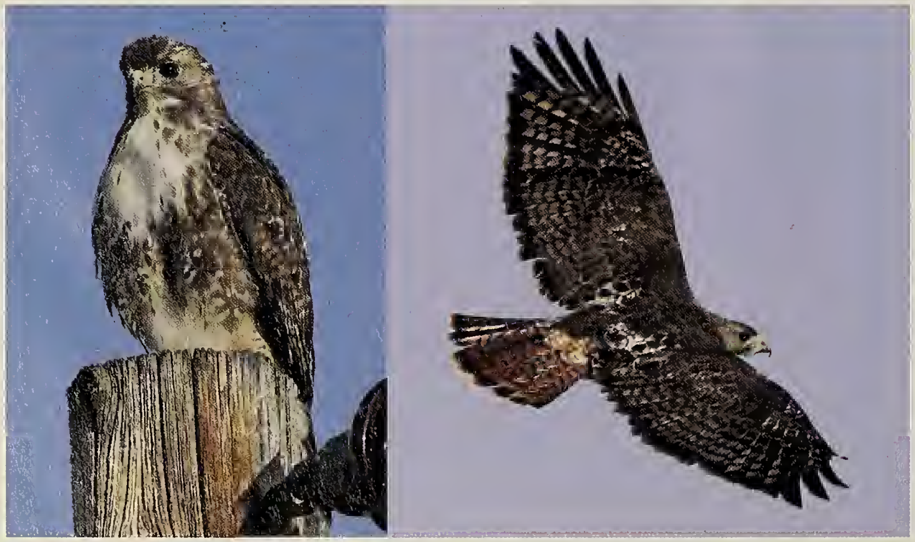


Figure 7. Migrant after-second-year *abieticola* at Vaughn, Montana 13 October 2011. Note extensive bellyband, dark streaks on sides of whitish chest, pale uppertail coverts, and multiple tail bands. *Photographs by Brian L. Sullivan.*

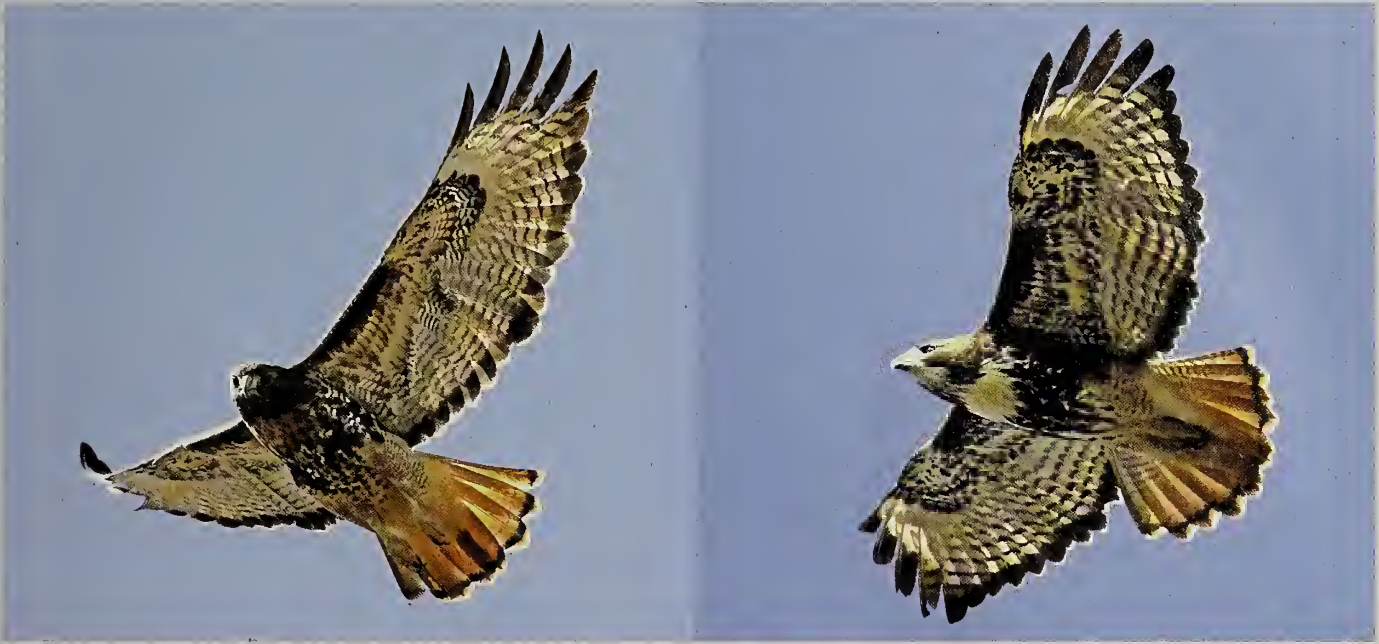


Figure 8. Two heavily marked adult *abieticola* on wintering grounds from Stillwater, Oklahoma 27 October 2009. In this after-second-year bird (left), note the extensive blackish, blobby bellyband, rufous chest, dark throat, barred leg feathers, and faintly banded tail. This bird is similar to rufous-morph *calurus* but lacks a solid bellyband, has a paler lower belly, and has less extensively marked underwing coverts. In this second-year bird (right), note extremely heavy bellyband, marked underwing coverts, spotted leg feathers, dark-bordered pale throat with dark streaks, and faintly banded tail. *Photographs by Jim Lish.*

stance, *abieticola* has been verified by photographs (K. Bardon, Liguori), though the percentage of *abieticola* there is not known. Farther east, along shorelines of the southern Great Lakes, the peak of spring migration of *abieticola* occurs on average about two weeks after that of *borealis* (Liguori 2001). The authors' review of photographs also suggests that heavily marked migrant Red-tailed Hawks from the eastern Great Lakes through the Northeast reported as light-morph *calurus* are instead *abieticola*, as Dickerman and Parkes (1987) also found to be the case in the Northeast.

Identification

Few nonspecialists are familiar with plumage variation exhibited by *calurus* and *borealis* or with the degree of overlap in their plumages. Distinguishing *abieticola* from the similar *calurus* is also an under-appreciated challenge.

Todd's (1950) description of *abieticola* reads: "Similar to *Buteo jamaicensis borealis* of the eastern United States and southern Canada, but underparts more heavily streaked; throat and upper breast darker colored (more brownish, less rufescent); upperparts (including wings externally) darker colored (more blackish); and sub-terminal black band on tail averaging wider." Dickerman and Parkes (1987) add: "differs from both *borealis* and [*calurus*] in having bold, heavy, dusky to black streaking on the feathers of the bellyband. The throat is never pure white as in many *borealis*, and may be so heavily streaked as to appear almost sol-

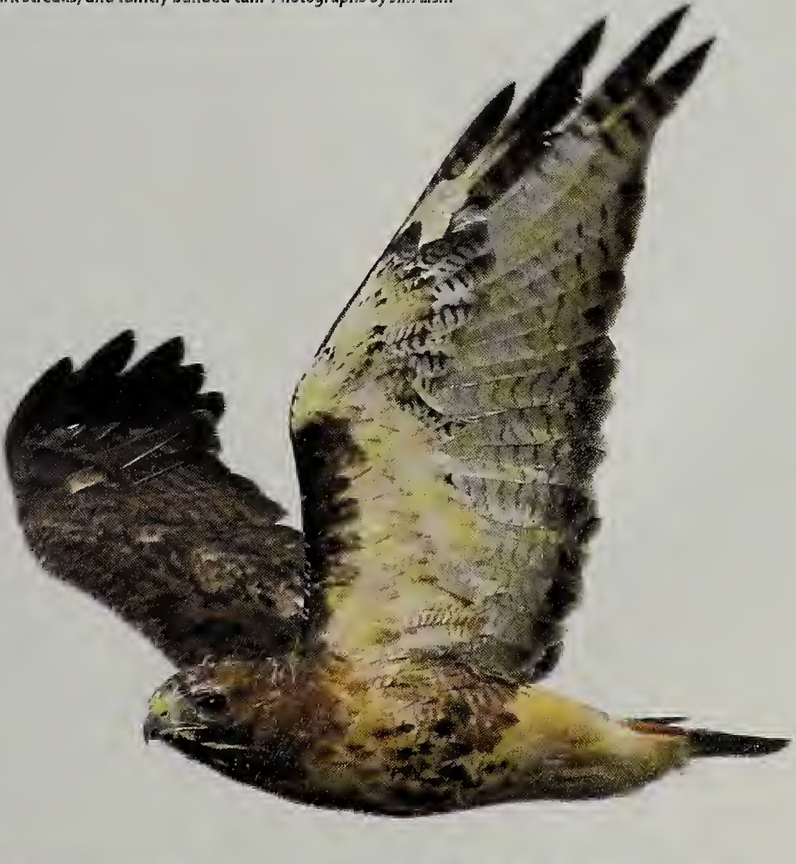


Figure 9. An after-second-year *abieticola* on migration at Hawk Ridge, Duluth, Minnesota, October 2013. Note teardrop shaped belly markings, rufous chest, bold patagial bars, unmarked underwing coverts, and dark throat. This bird lacked multiple tail bands. *Photograph by Jerry Liguori.*

id black. The ground color of the underparts of *abieticola* averages more richly colored (buffy) than in *borealis*, overlapping somewhat with the palest individuals of *calurus*; most 'normal' (i.e., not erythristic or melanic) individuals of the latter race have underparts that are distinctly orange-buff. The westernmost specimens of *abieticola*, as one might expect in an area of intergradation with *calurus*, are the most deeply colored ventrally." Plumage variation in *abieticola* on the breeding grounds, however, has yet to be studied. Until more information is available, it is best to leave many individual migrants and wintering birds unidentified to subspecies. Thus far, it has not been proven that *abieticola* occurs in a dark morph; thus, dark-morph Red-tailed Hawks should be either *calurus* or *harlani*, though further research could reveal dark-morph *abieticola*.

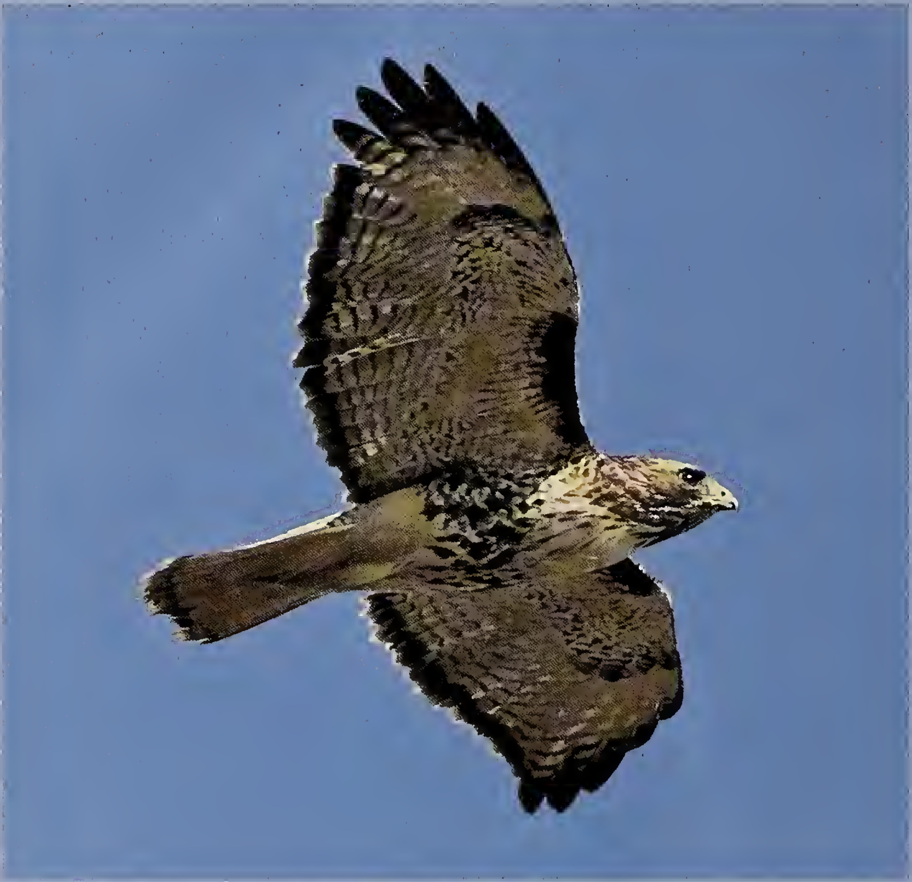


Figure 10. An after-third-year *abieticola* wintering near Tunica, Mississippi, 21 December 2009. Note prominent bellyband, dark throat, streaks on sides of chest, and partially banded tail. *Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.*

Morphometric data that could help distinguish *abieticola* from other taxa are few. Banding data from Braddock Bay, Monroe County, New York in three spring migration seasons, 1994-1996 (Liguori, unpubl. data), are of interest: birds recorded as *abieticola* males (sexing based on weight and tarsus width) averaged both smaller and lighter than *borealis* males, whereas *abieticola* females were closer in size and weight to *borealis* females. Larger samples are needed to determine whether these differences are consistent.

Based on the type description by Todd (1950), the work of Dickerman and Parkes (1987), and subsequent research by the authors, *abieticola* typically shows:

- Throat dark, dark-streaked, or dark-bordered, rarely purely whitish;
- Prominent, blackish bellyband, typically with teardrop-shaped streaking;
- Rufous wash or rufous streaks often in breast;
- Variable tail pattern: multiple tail bands that are sometimes incomplete and/or limited to the tail base; a single, narrow band above the subterminal band; or no tail bands; generally more banding than in *borealis*, less heavily barred or banded than most *calurus* (but much variation in *calurus* as well)
- Darker head and upperparts (fewer pale scapulars and coverts) than in typical *borealis*;
- Broader, bolder patagial bars than in typical *borealis* but less bold than in typical *calurus*;
- Less heavily marked underwing coverts than in most *calurus*;
- More retained juvenile remiges after the first molt than *calurus*; and
- Less extensive prebasic molts (adults) than Red-taileds from more southerly areas.

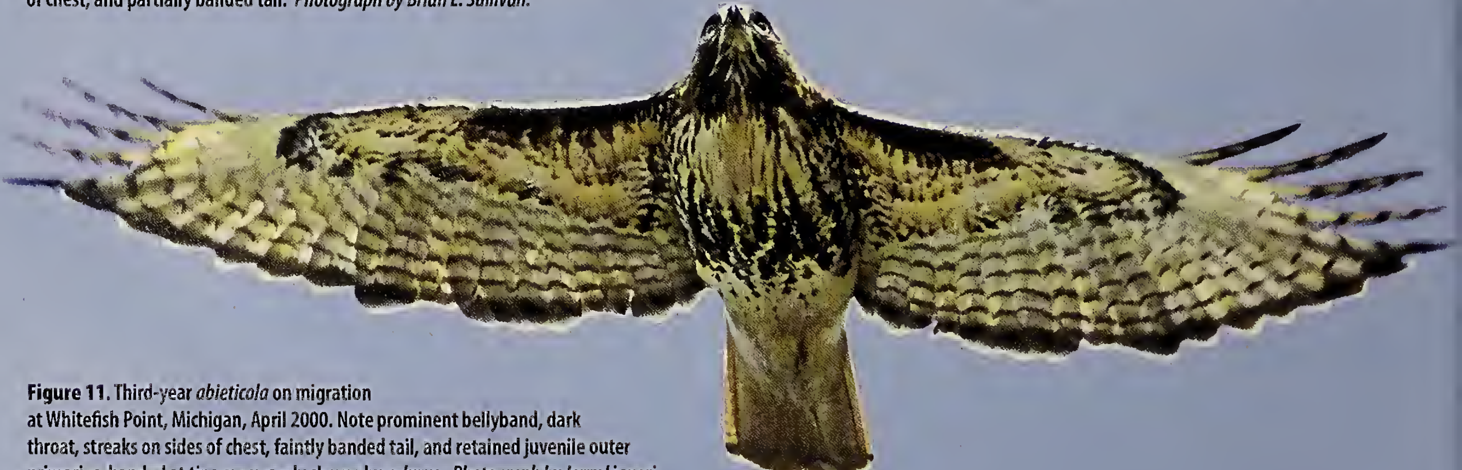


Figure 11. Third-year *abieticola* on migration at Whitefish Point, Michigan, April 2000. Note prominent bellyband, dark throat, streaks on sides of chest, faintly banded tail, and retained juvenile outer primaries, banded at tips, very rarely shown by *calurus*. *Photograph by Jerry Liguori.*

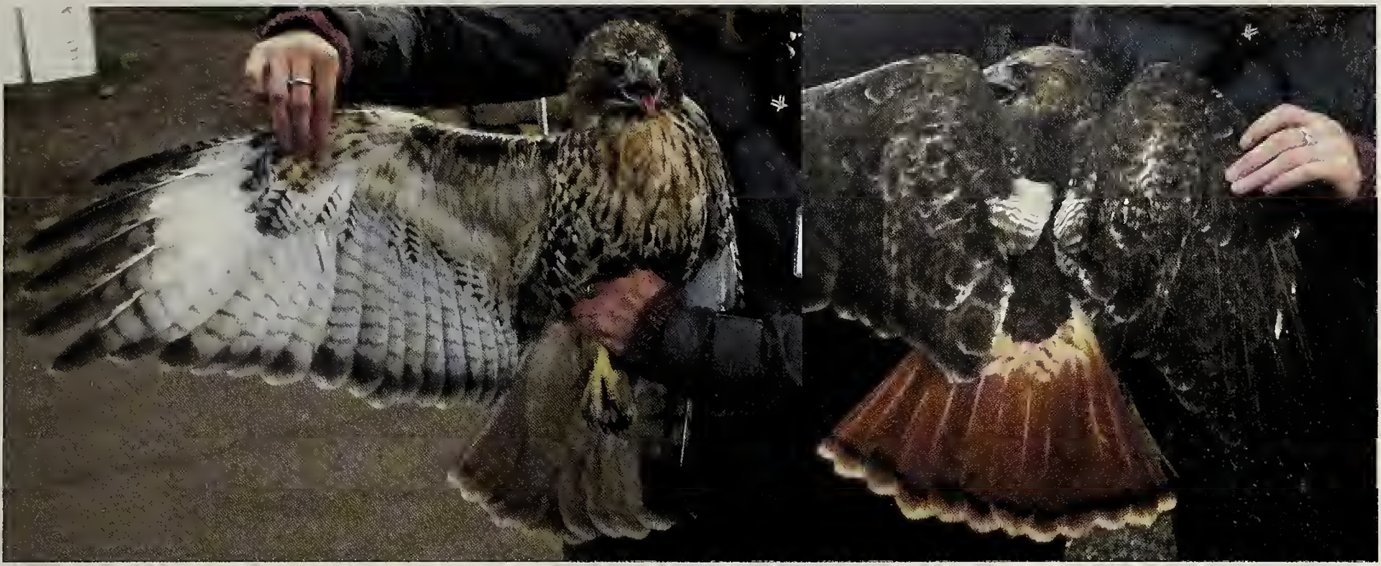


Figure 12. After-second-year *abieticola* trapped on migration at Hawk Ridge, Minnesota, October 2013. Note extensive bellyband, rufous chest, pale throat, unmarked underwing coverts, pale uppertail coverts, unbanded tail, and dark upperside. This plumage in *abieticola* most closely resembles light-morph *calurus*. *Photographs by Jerry Liguori.*

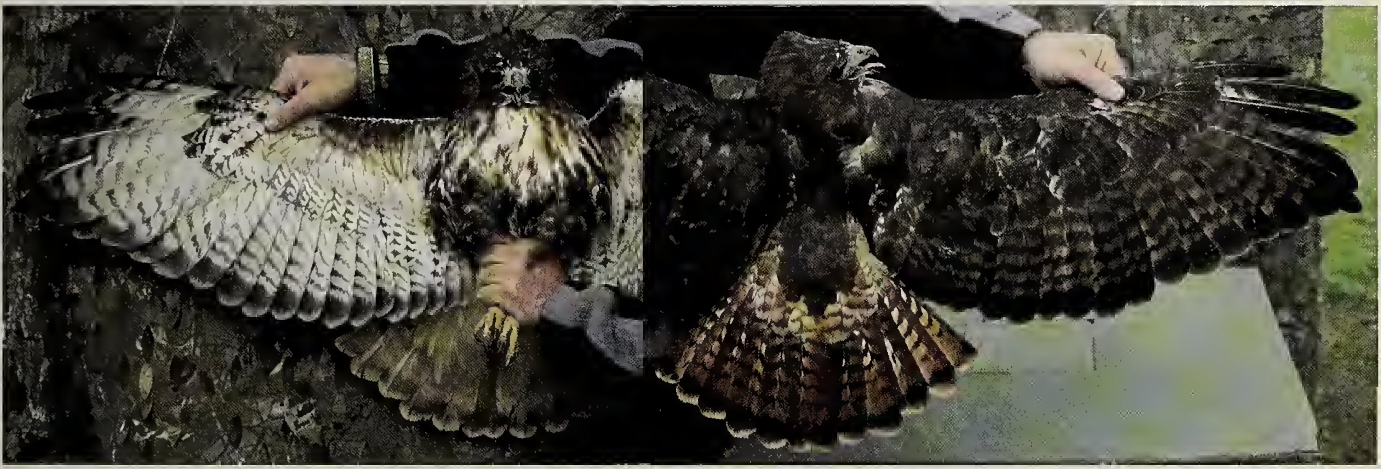


Figure 13. After-second-year *abieticola* trapped on migration at Hawk Ridge, Minnesota, October 2006. Note extensive bellyband, streaked chest, mostly dark throat, faintly marked underwing coverts, dark patagial bars, widely spaced tail bands, and dark upperparts. Uppertail coverts are extensively pale. *Photographs by Step Wilson.*

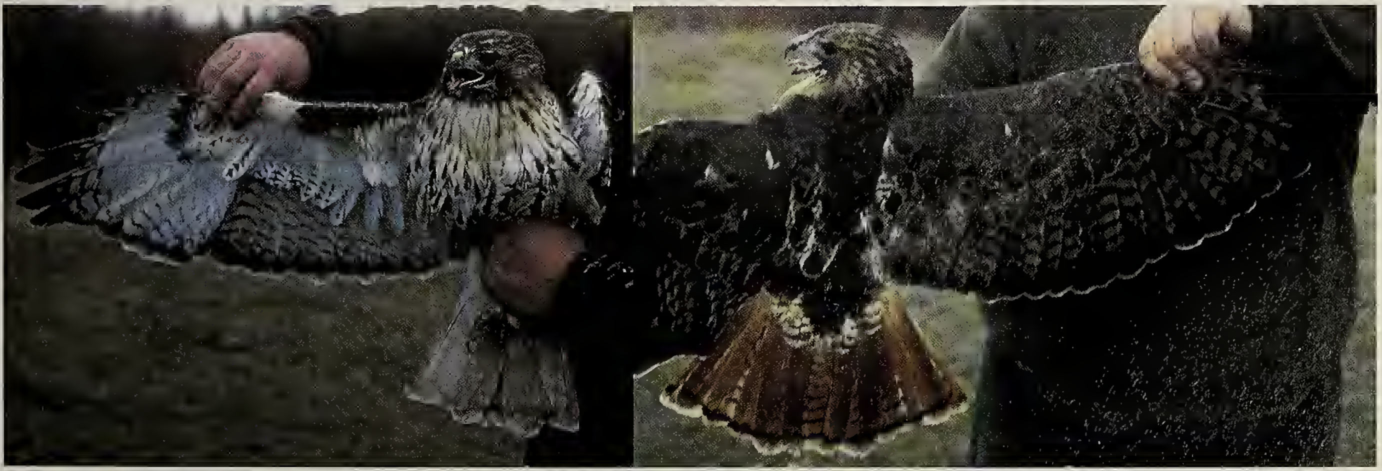


Figure 14. After-third-year *abieticola* trapped on migration at Braddock Bay, New York, April 1996. Note streaked chest, dark throat, broad patagial bars, unmarked underwing coverts, partially banded tail, pale uppertail coverts, and nearly unmarked dark upperparts. *Photographs by Jerry Liguori.*

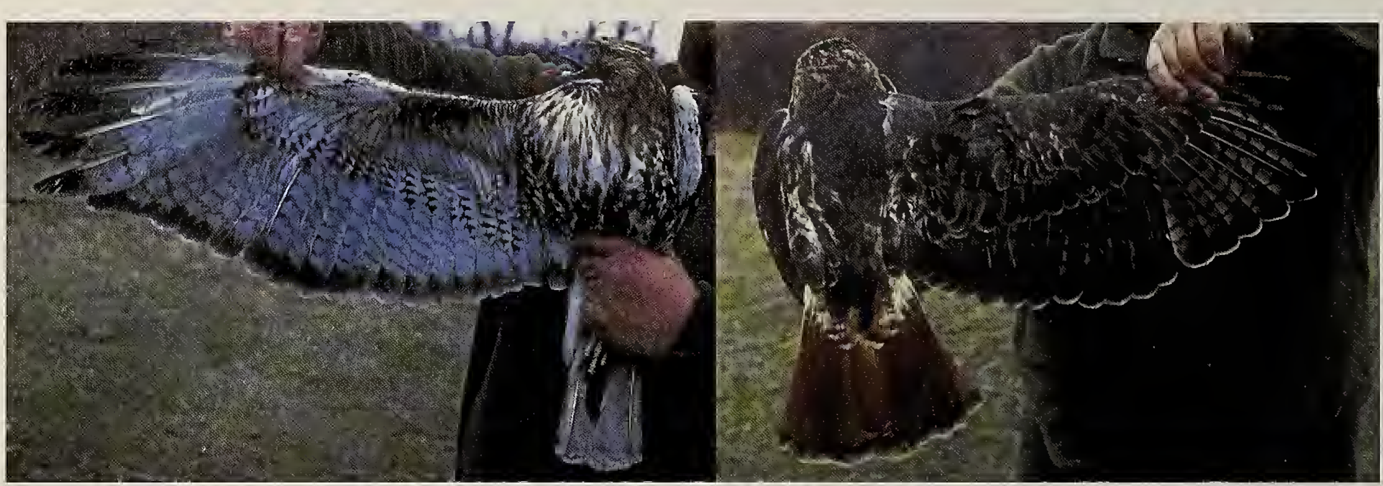


Figure 15. After-second-year *abieticola* trapped on migration at Braddock Bay, New York, April 1996. Note prominent bellyband, streaked chest, streaked throat, faintly marked underwing coverts, unbanded tail, pale uppertail coverts, and dark upperparts. *Photographs by Jerry Liguori.*

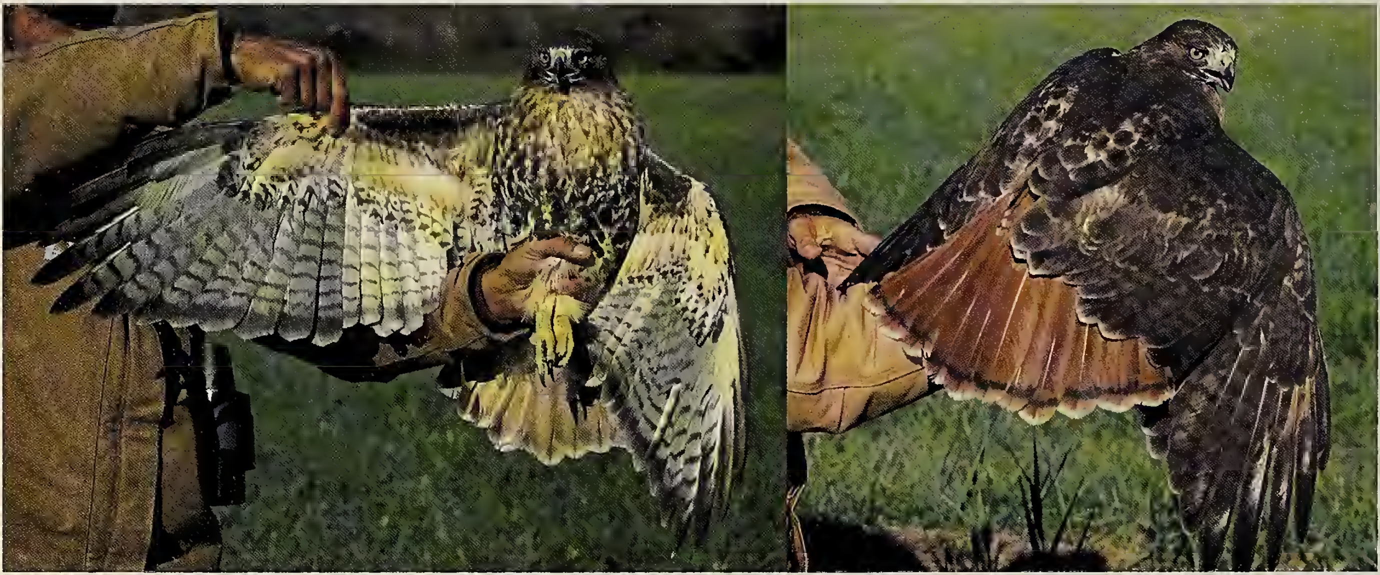


Figure 16. Second-year *abieticola* at Cape May Point, New Jersey, November 1995. Note extensive bellyband, rufous chest, dark throat, bold patagial bars, unmarked underwing coverts, unbanded tail, and dark upperparts; birds with fully rufous uppertail coverts like this are uncommon. This plumage type most closely resembles *calurus*. *Photographs by Jerry Liguori.*

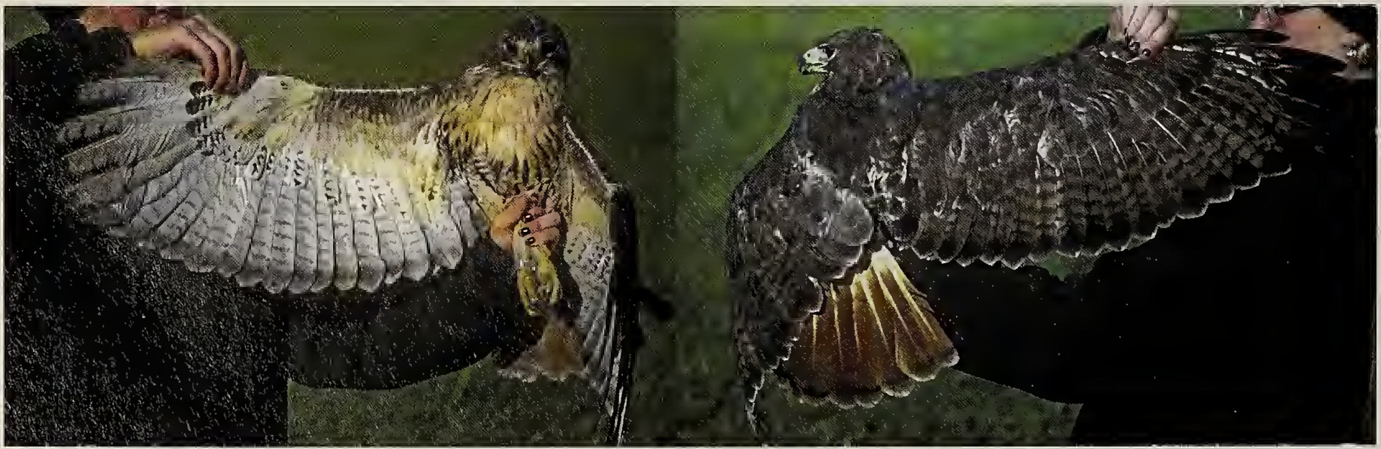


Figure 17. After-second-year *abieticola* trapped on migration at Cape May Point, New Jersey, November 1994. Note blobby bellyband, rufous wash to chest, streaked throat, dark head, faintly marked underwings, unbanded tail, and dark unmarked upperparts. *Photographs by Jerry Liguori.*

Plumage differences among Red-tailed Hawk subspecies appear to be most pronounced in adults; only adult plumages of *abieticola* have been studied thus far. Based on the few examples of known *abieticola* juveniles that we have reviewed, they appear to be more heavily marked below than typical *borealis* juveniles, often with spotted leg feathers, thus closely resembling some *calurus* juveniles.

Discussion

Past ornithologists' work on variation in Red-tailed Hawks has been exemplary. With often a paucity of material to review, especially of individuals from breeding areas, researchers such as Taverner (1927, 1936) and Todd (1950) made enormous strides in basic description of the northern and western taxa. Many of the questions they raised about the basic natural histories and appearances of the various Red-tailed Hawk taxa also continue to be relevant today. In 2014, for instance, it is unknown how far north and west typical *borealis* breeds. At Gunsight Mountain, Alaska, small numbers of migrant *borealis* and *abieticola* have been documented moving westward in April (Liguori and Sullivan 2010a); where are these birds nesting?

Although Northern Red-tailed Hawk is slowly becoming more familiar to raptor enthusiasts, much remains to be learned. With today's advanced technologies for communication, documentation, and data archiving, birders can make solid contributions toward understanding this enigmatic bird's identification, taxonomy, and natural history. Observations of *abieticola* may be reported to eBird (<www.ebird.org>), where "Red-tailed Hawk (Northern)" is available on checklists. Embedding a photograph along with any report of this subspecies will help eBird editors verify and validate the report; moreover, each photograph will provide a resource for under-

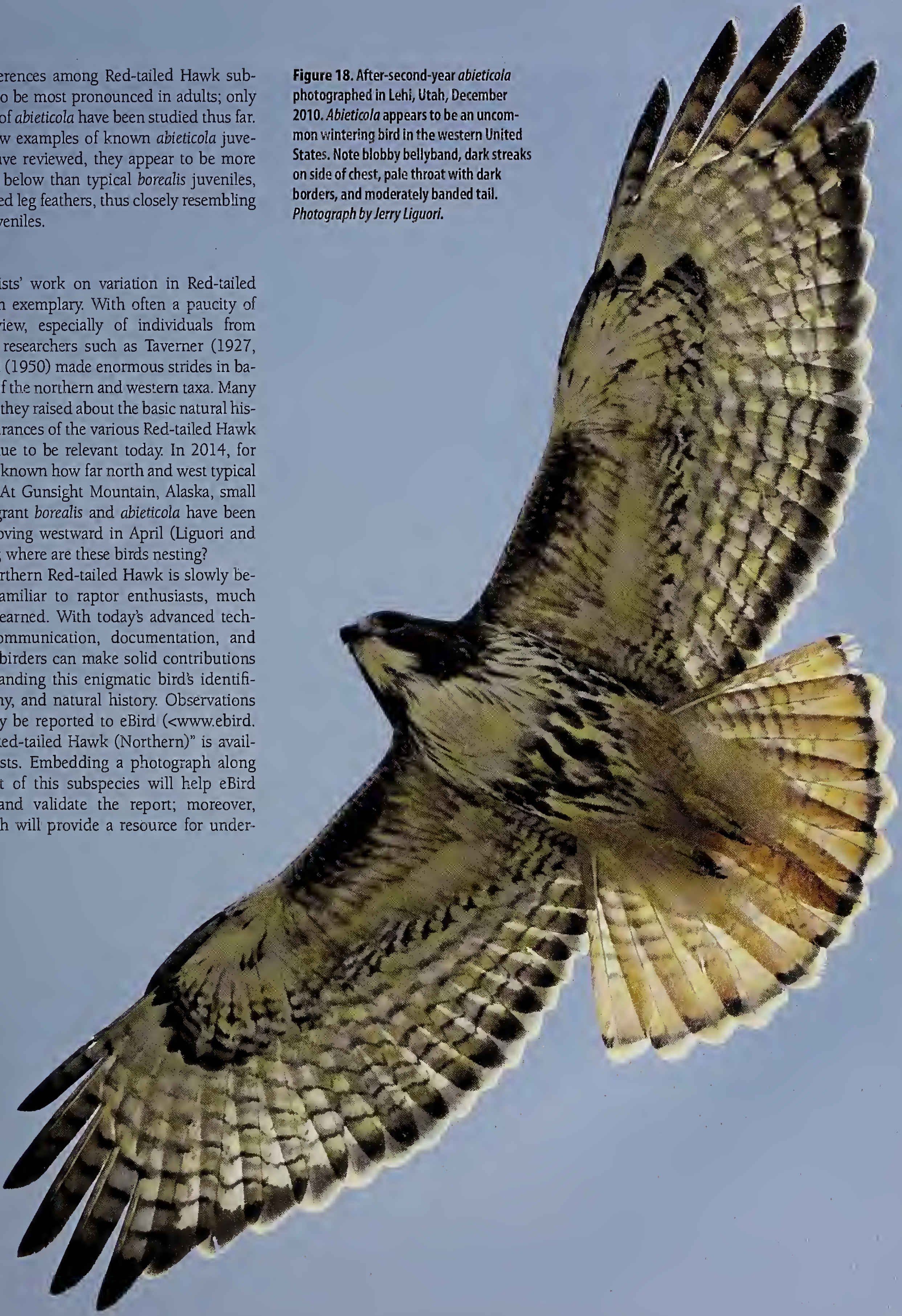


Figure 18. After-second-year *abieticola* photographed in Lehi, Utah, December 2010. *Abieticola* appears to be an uncommon wintering bird in the western United States. Note blobby bellyband, dark streaks on side of chest, pale throat with dark borders, and moderately banded tail. *Photograph by Jerry Liguori.*

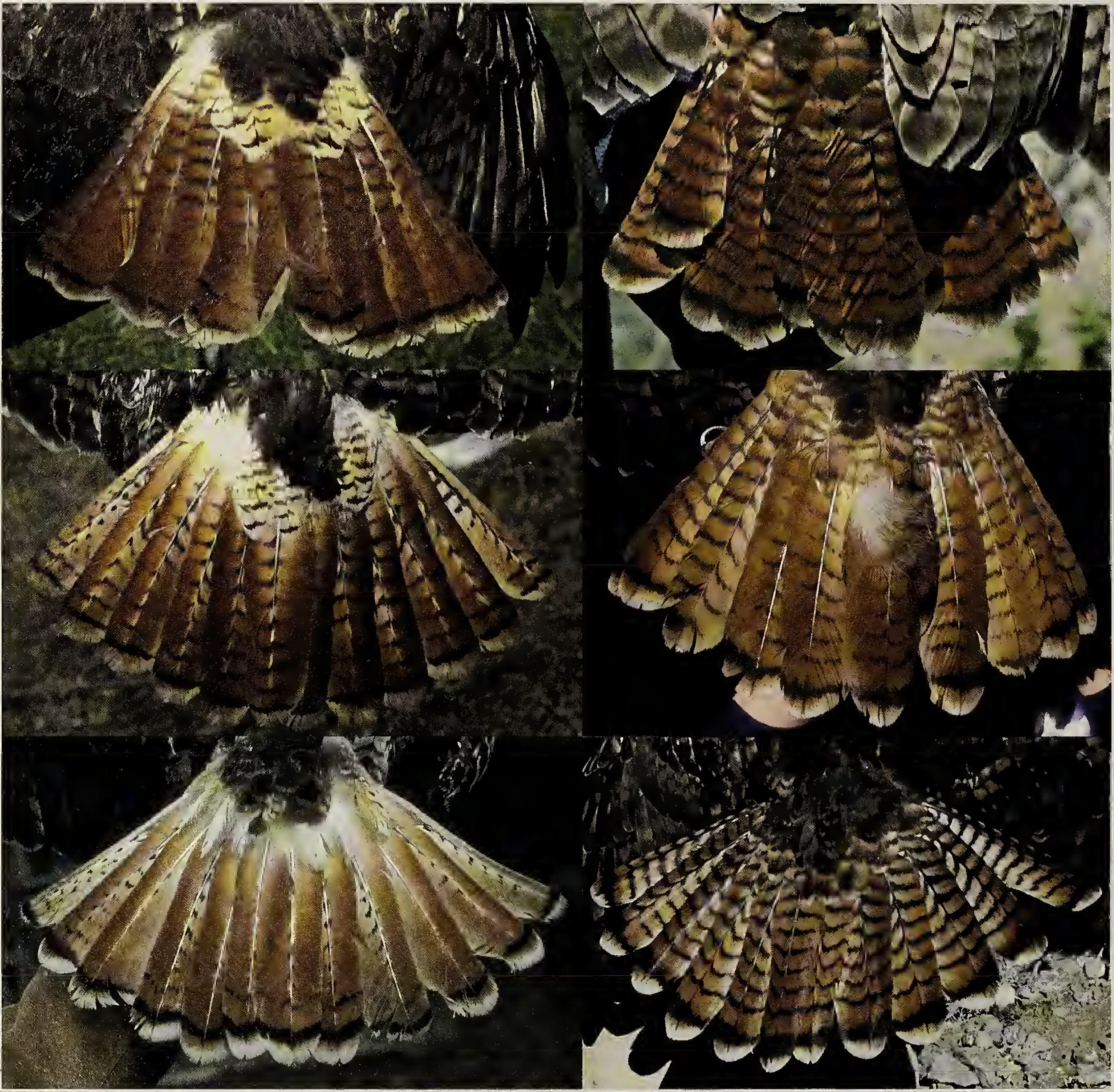


Figure 19. The left column shows mostly typical adult (after-second-year) *abieticola* tails with moderate or partial banding; the right column shows typical adult *calurus* tails, which appear on average more heavily or densely banded or barred than in *abieticola*. However, variation from no banding to heavy banding occurs in both subspecies. Note that *abieticola* usually has pale uppertail coverts, whereas *calurus* usually has solidly dark or rufous uppertail coverts. *Photographs by Jerry Liguori.*

standing plumage variation, with each record adding an important piece to the puzzle. Arguably, a citizen-science project on the scale of the continent, such as eBird, is required to amass enough data to shed light on the status and distribution of Northern Red-tailed Hawk. Photographic documentation of nesting Red-tailed Hawks in Canada is comparatively scarce and would be especially useful for determining phenotypes of those that nest in the boreal forest.

Acknowledgments

We thank Jim Lish for a decade's worth of study on Red-tailed Hawks and his amazing photographic collection of Red-tailed Hawks from the Oklahoma prairies. We are also indebted to Karl Bardon, Vic Berardi, Tom Carrolan, Bill Clark, Larry Hancock, Reid Hildebrandt, Colin Horstead, Steve N. G. Howell, Wilson Hum, Jean Iron, Jukka Jantunen, Tony Leukering, Derek Lyon, Nova MacKentley, Daryll Myhr, Chris Neri, Frank Nicoletti, Michael O'Brien, Ron Pittaway, Bryce Robinson, Jon Ruddy, Brian Wheeler, and Step Wilson for collaboration on multiple projects involving North American Red-tailed Hawks and for contributions to the current paper.

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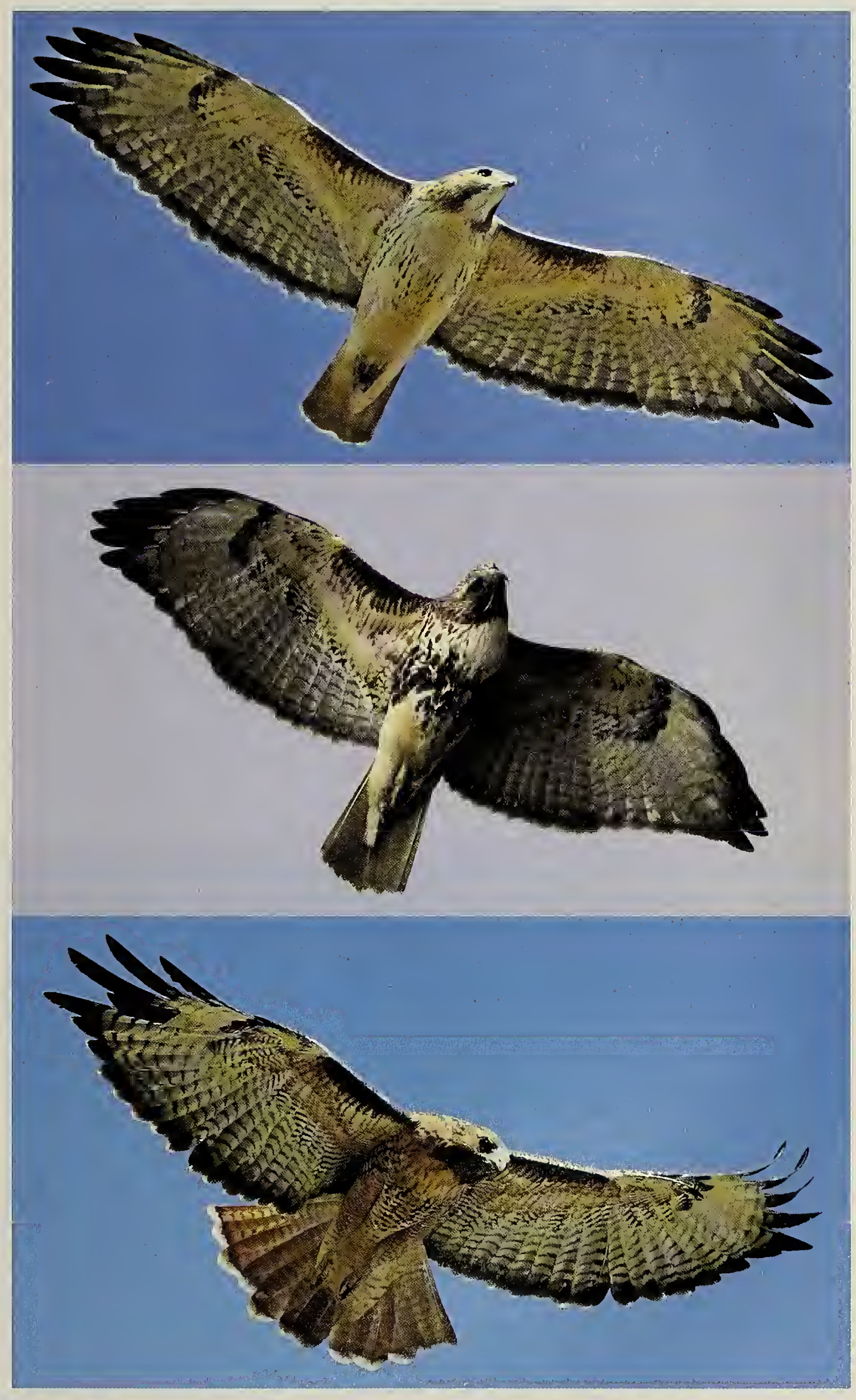

Figure 20. "Classic" *borealis* (top; probably second-year bird) with minimal bellyband, fully pale throat, golden head, and unbanded tail. Des Moines, Iowa, 13 October 2013. "Classic" *abieticola* (middle; second-year bird) with heavy bellyband and dark throat. Whitefish Point, Michigan, 28 April 2006. "Classic" *calurus* (bottom; after-second-year bird) with rufous underside, bold patagial bars, dark throat, boldly banded remiges, fully banded tail, barred bellyband, and barred leg feathers. Bountiful, Utah, August 2006. *Photographs by Chris Neri (middle) and Jerry Liguori.*

A White Tern (*Gygis alba*) in the Bahamas

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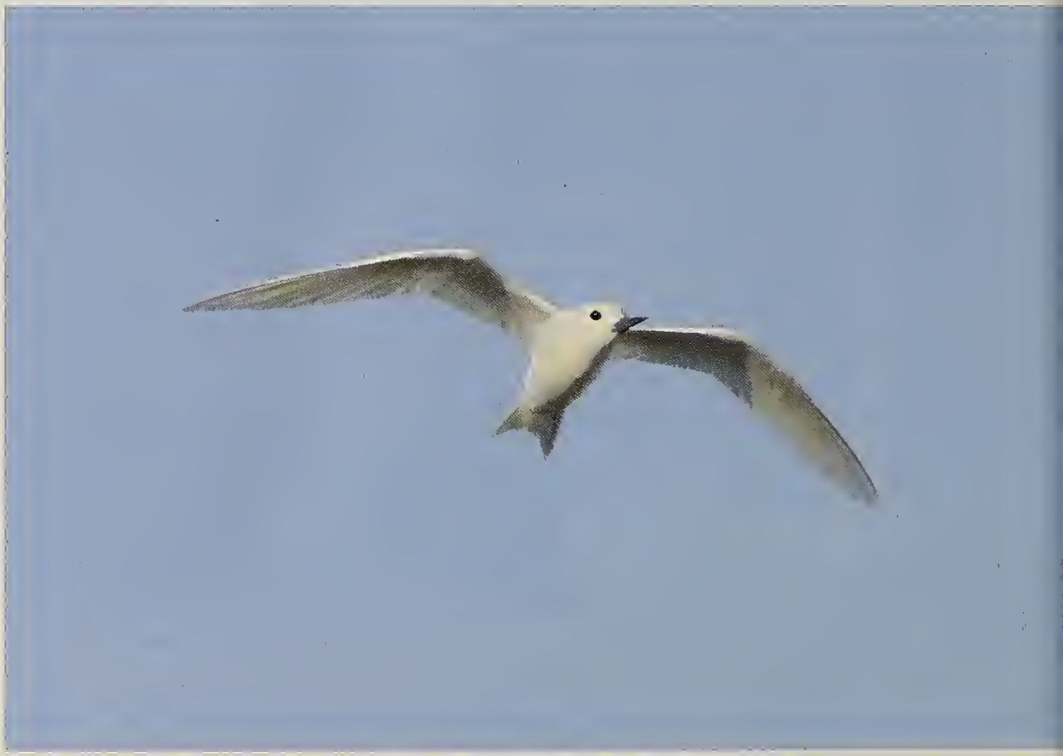
On 17 June 2010 in the early evening, Cummins and Boardman observed a White Tern (*Gygis alba*) as it flew back and forth over the field station catchment basin at Gerace Research Centre, San Salvador, Bahamas. The bird was present for five minutes and observed only in flight. They were aware of the rarity of the observation and documented the bird carefully with field notes and photographs (Figures 1-3; Cummins et al. 2013).

White Terns of the nominate subspecies nest in the South Atlantic on the islands of Fernando de Noronha, Trindade, Martim Vaz, Ascension, and St. Helena. Relatively recent estimates of populations include "fewer than 1000 adults" in the Fernando de Noronha Archipelago (Antas 1991), up to 800 at Ilha da Trindade (Fonseca-Neto 2004), 5300 breeding adults at Ascension (most on Boatswainbird Islet; Ashmole et al. 1990), and several hundred on St. Helena (Rowlands et al. 1998). Leandro Bugoni of the Instituto de Ciências Biológicas, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande, who has conducted research at Ilha da Trindade since 1996, indicates (in litt.) that his observations suggest a population of perhaps 400 White Terns there. Bugoni has also documented very small numbers breeding at nearby Martim Vaz in April 2007 and reports that recent surveys of other Brazilian oceanic islands (Atol das Rocas, Abrolhos, São Pedro, and São Paulo) have not produced evidence of nesting White Terns.

White Terns nest at far more stations in the Pacific and Indian Ocean basins than in the Atlantic and are far more numerous in the former basins; nevertheless, there is no verified record of the species for the Pacific side of North America. A 1983 sight record by Neal G. Smith of two White Terns at sea 11 kilometers south of Pacora, Panama (Ridgely and Gwynne 1989) is considered tentative.

In the North Atlantic, north of the equator, there are just two previous records of White Tern. In the southern Caribbean, an individual of this species was recorded at Store Bay, Tobago 16 August 1987 (ffrench 1991). The only other record is from Great



Figures 1-3. White Tern, Gerace Research Centre, San Salvador, Bahamas 17 June 2010. The identification of this species is straightforward from these photographs; no other seabird shows this snow-white plumage, large dark eyes, and long, pointed bill. Certain identification to subspecies is likely not possible without a specimen, but these images show only a faint trace of darker pigment in the shaft (rhacis) of the outermost primary (birds of the Pacific *candida* subspecies group show much more), a relatively shallow fork in the tail compared to Pacific subspecies (though the apparent depth of fork changes with tail posture and with photographic angle), and only a small amount of bluish tone in the base of the bill—all aspects that point to the nominate subspecies, *Gygis alba alba*. The shape of the bill and possibly the shape of the feathering around the base of the bill also appear to support that identification. *Photographs by R. Hays Cummins.*

Sound, Bermuda, a single bird observed 7-9 December 1972 (Wingate and Watson 1974). From photographs, this bird was determined to be of one of the Pacific/Indian Ocean subspecies (*pacifica*, *monte*, or *candida*; D. B. Wingate, in litt.), which are sometimes together called the *candida* subspecies group. The subspecies of the San Salvador bird cannot be determined with certainty from the photographs, but the limited dark pigmentation in the shaft of the outermost primary, the rather shallowly forked tail, the long, slender, stiletto-like bill, and the limited amount of bluish color in the base of the bill together point to the nominate subspecies. From the photographs, it is not possible to make out precisely the pattern of feathering at the base of the bill, sometimes used to assess subspecies (see Wingate and Watson 1974).

Although the San Salvador White Tern was about 5500 kilometers from the nearest breeding area in the South Atlantic (and 4000 kilometers from breeding areas on Clipperton Island, in the Pacific), birders in the Caribbean should be vigilant for further records of this species. And as the San Salvador bird was only 600 km from Florida, birders in the United States should be watchful for records on the North American mainland as well.

Acknowledgments

We thank Leandro Bugoni and George Angehr for information on the status of White Tern in Brazil and Panama, respectively, and Stephen J. Dinsmore for helpful editorial comments on an earlier draft of this note.

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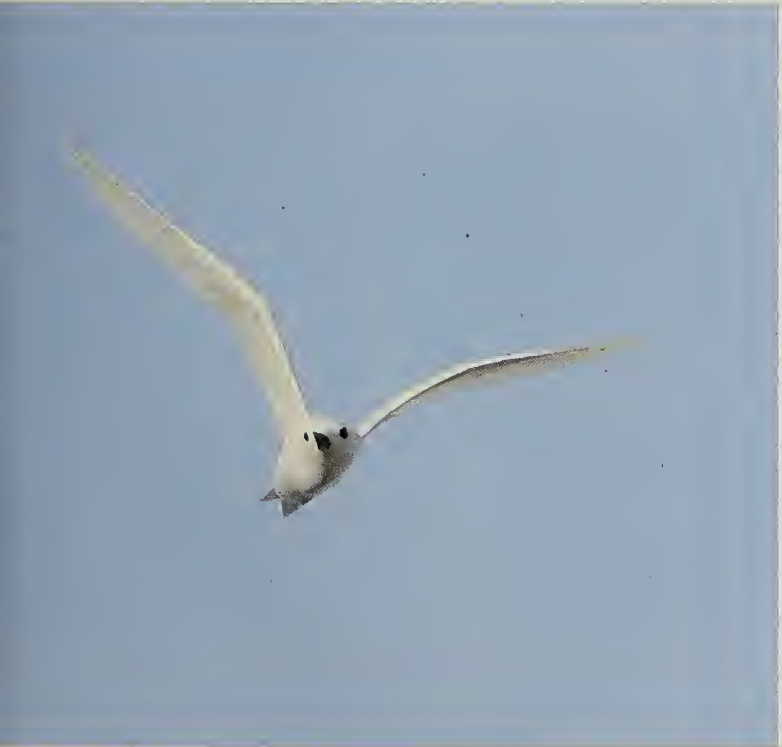

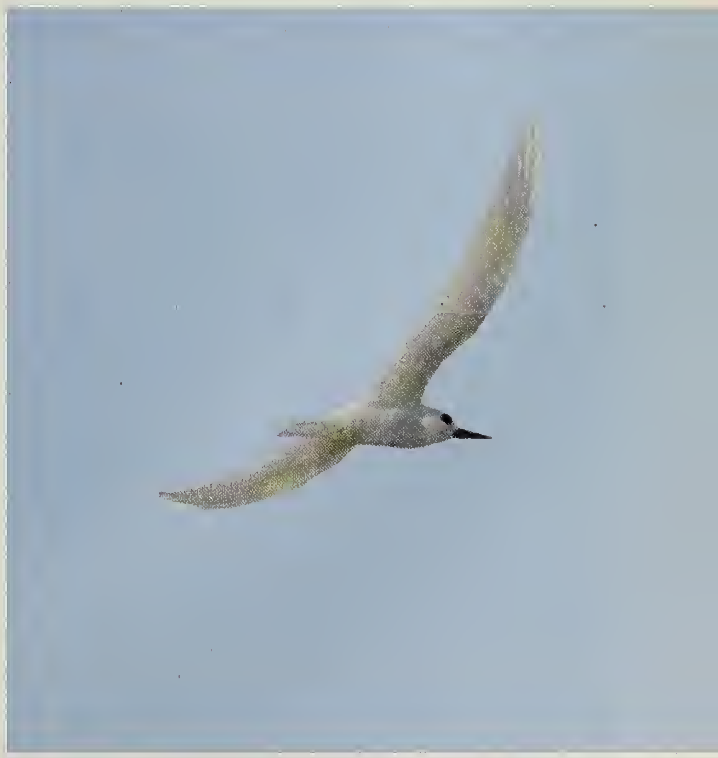

First North American records of Bicolored Wren (*Campylorhynchus griseus*) and Dusky Pigeon (*Patagioenas goodsoni*) from Panama

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Abstract

This paper presents the first photographic evidence of the occurrence of Bicolored Wren (*Campylorhynchus griseus*) and Dusky Pigeon (*Patagioenas goodsoni*) in North America. Both species were located in eastern Darién Province, Panama, near the border with Colombia. The pigeon had been reported previously but not verified in the province. In the case of the wrens, breeding was also confirmed at one site in Darién Province.

Bicolored Wren (*Campylorhynchus griseus*)

On 23 December 2012, Campos visited the village of Paya (elev. 150 m) in eastern Darién, Panama, near the border with Colombia, at 7° 58’ 00” N, 77° 24’ 00” E (Figure 1). On the afternoon of the same day, he saw and photographed two Bicolored Wrens (Figures 2, 3). On 24 December 2012, he observed one Bicolored Wren as it collected nesting material on the ground at Paya. The next day, he flushed a single Bicolored Wren from its nest at Paya. On 28 December, he detected another individual by voice at Boca de Cupe, Darién (elev. 76 m), at 8° 03’ 00” N, 77° 35’ 00” E (Figure 1).

Bicolored Wren is the only Colombian wren that shows the combination of white underparts, white superciliary, and dark eye line. The species is widespread in disturbed and semi-open areas of northern South America, including northern Colombia (Hilty and Brown 1986, Ridgely and Tudor 2009), but has not previously been reported in Panama. The border area of eastern Panama near Paya (Figure 1) is little explored by ornithologists, and this may account for the lack of any previous indication that Bicolored Wren might occur in the region. Alternatively, deforestation in the region may have facilitated the recent spread of this non-forest species into Panama, as is suspected for at least two other species recently first recorded from Panama in Darién (Angehr 2011). In addition, Bicolored Wren is described as a synanthropic species that is especially common “near habitations and villages and locally into moist open woodlands and edges” (Hilty and Brown 1986).

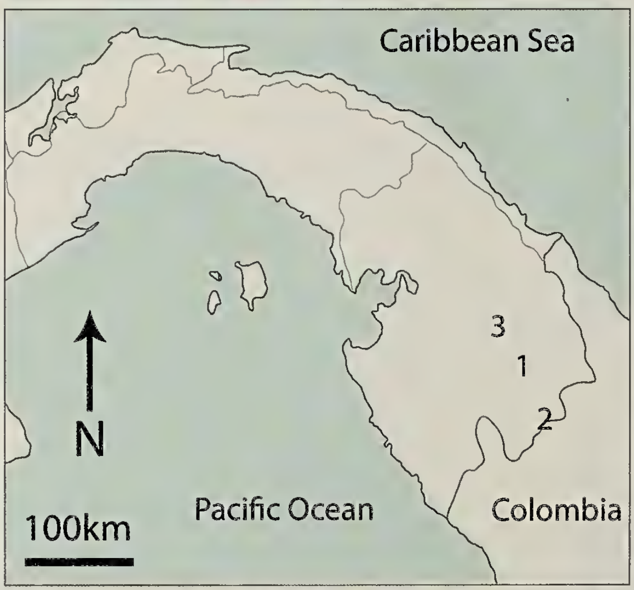

Figure 1. Map of eastern Panama, showing the localities in Darién Province mentioned in the text: 1) Paya, 2) Hito de las Letras, 3) Boca de Cupe. *Figure by Euclides Campos Cedeño.*

Dusky Pigeon (*Patagioenas goodsoni*)

At 1130 on 26 December 2012, Campos heard a Dusky Pigeon calling near Hito Palo de las Letras (elev. 200 m), one in a series of fourteen monuments that define the Panama/Colombia border in eastern Darién, at 7° 50.45’ 9” N, 77° 20’ 40” E (Figure 1). Using playback of Dusky Pigeons recorded in South America, he was able to lure three Dusky Pigeons into view and obtained photographs (Figure 4) and video recordings. Although the color of the birds’ irides is not obvious in the photograph, Campos observed that they were red.

Dusky Pigeon is the only member of its genus with the combination of pale gray head and chestnut vent shown in the photographs. The species was first reported from Panama in 1981 (Wetmore et. al 1984, Ridgely and Gwynne 1989) based on two birds seen and tape-recorded in the Tuira River Valley of Darién in 1981. These recordings were subsequently lost. A Dusky Pigeon was reported from the trail to Cerro Pirre above Cana on 17 April 1992 by Dodge and Lorna Engleman (Angehr et al. 2006). Because these reports lack physical documentation, the species has been regarded as hypothetical in North America (A.O.U. 1998).

A further complicating factor in evaluating such reports has resulted from confusion concerning the iris color of *P. goodsoni* and the similar Plumbeous Pigeon (*P. plumbea*), a species only recently documented from eastern Panama (Angehr et al. 2004, 2006; Chesser et al. 2009). Several references give the iris color of Dusky Pigeon as “bluish-gray” (Ridgely and Gwynne 1989) or “pale gray” (Hilty and Brown 1986), whereas data from specimen labels in the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) give the iris color of Dusky Pigeons collected in South America as “carmine” or “orange.” The iris color in Ecuador is given as “red” by Ridgely and Greenfield (2001). While many specimens lack any data on bare parts colors, no specimen Dusky Pigeon in the AMNH series is labeled as having bluish-gray or gray irides. Populations of Plumbeous Pigeon found in northwestern South America adjacent to Panama are now known to have pale gray irides. A further potential point of confusion, Hilty and Brown (1986) describe Plumbeous Pigeon as having "soft-part colors as in Ruddy Pigeon" (*P. subvinacea*), thus incorrectly suggesting that the eyes of Plumbeous Pigeon are "dull red."

Acknowledgments

We thank Dale Dyer and George Angehr for useful comments on an early draft of this note. Vallely is indebted to the Department of Ornithology at the American Museum of Natural History for access to specimens in their care.

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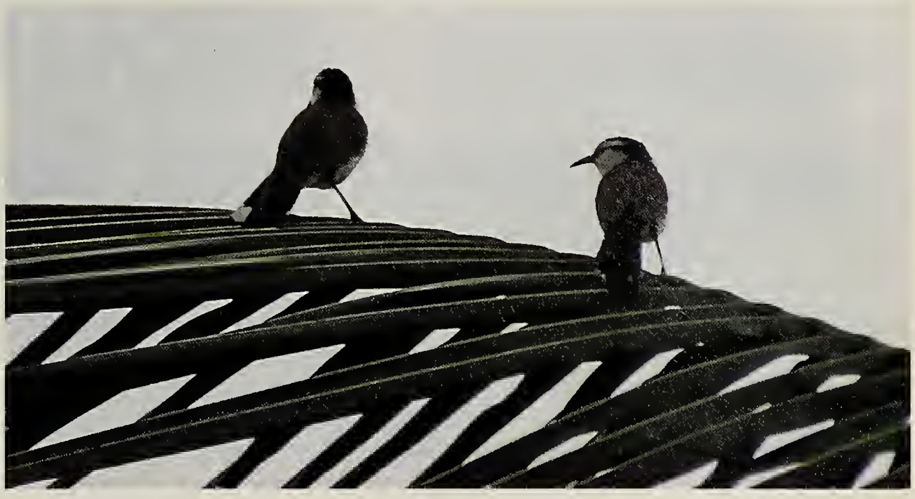

Figure 2 (top). A nesting pair of Bicolored Wrens at Paya, Darién Province, Panama, 23 December 2012. *Photograph by Euclides Campos Cedeño.*

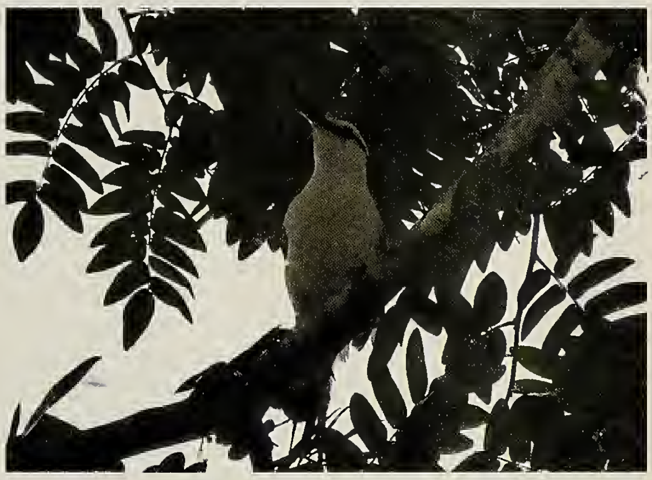

Figure 3 (middle). A Bicolored Wren at Paya, Darién Province, Panama, 23 December 2012. *Photograph by Euclides Campos Cedeño.*

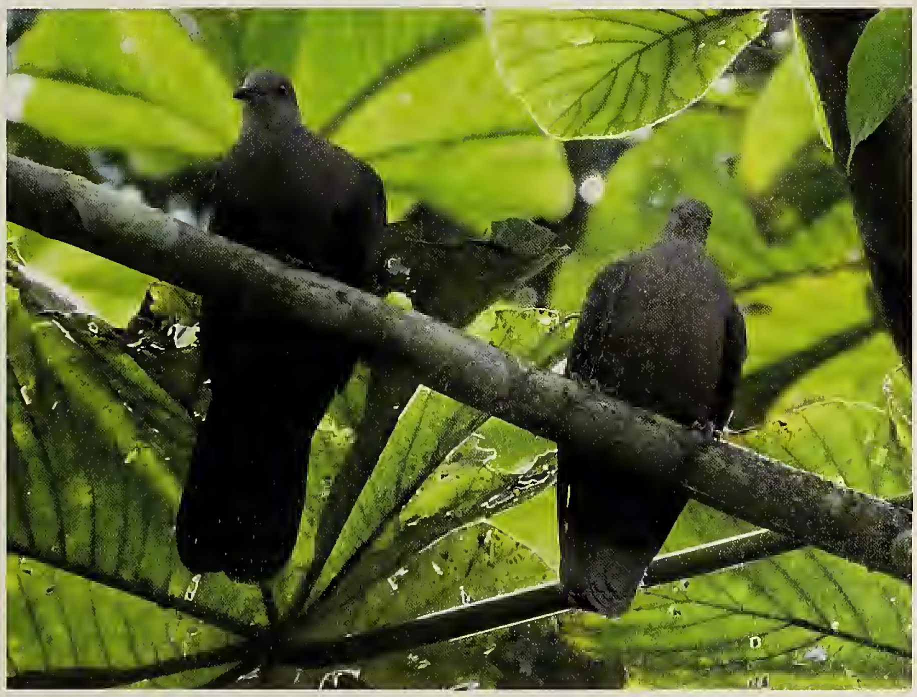

Figure 4 (bottom). Two Dusky Pigeons attracted to playback near Hito Palo de las Letras, Darién Province, Panama on 26 December 2012. *Photograph by Euclides Campos Cedeño.*

European Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*) at Little Creek Wildlife Management Area, Delaware

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Abstract

This paper treats the appearance and identification of a European Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*) at Little Creek Wildlife Management Area, Kent County, Delaware on 11 August 1997.

Field encounter

On 11 August 1997 at about 11:30 EDT, four birders—O'Brien, Diane Ditsworth, Barbara McGlaughlin, and Edie Parnum—observed an adult male European Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*) at Little Creek Wildlife Management Area, Kent County, Delaware, about half way down the dirt track from Pickering Beach Road to the southern Little Creek impoundment.

The bird was in view for about one minute as it circled overhead, gaining altitude slightly and drifting off to the northwest. It was quite low at first, perhaps 15 m, and virtually straight overhead. It eventually rose to a level several times that before it was obscured by nearby trees. It was initially in the company of a Black Vulture, but the two drifted off in different directions. The sky was hazy and bright, so the bird was somewhat backlit. As a result, it was difficult to make out colors clearly, even with a new Swarovski 7x42 binocular (O'Brien), but the plumage pattern and the bird's structure were easily discerned. O'Brien was leading a small WINGS tour group on a shorebird identification workshop. Field characters were discussed during the observation, and field notes were composed by O'Brien, McGlaughlin, and Parnum immediately thereafter. None of the observers had any previous experience with European Honey Buzzard.

The bird's size was roughly similar to Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). The wings were longer and narrower than in Red-tailed but broad in the hand, with widely spaced primary tips. The bird's tail was longer and narrower than in Red-tailed, not unlike Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) in that respect but oddly wedge-shaped. The bird's circling flight was reminiscent of Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), with wings held flat and tail sometimes twisted at odd angles to the wings, rudder-like. The bird circled and never flapped. The tail showed a broad, sharply defined, blackish terminal band (narrower than in Rough-legged) and was otherwise pale except for a very thin dark band toward the base near the tips of the undertail coverts. The secondaries were similarly patterned, with a broad dark trailing edge and much thinner band toward the base of the secondaries just past the underwing coverts. The primaries were paler than the secondaries, with very sharply defined black tips covering only the narrow, emarginated "fingers." The black "finger tips" were thus well separated from each other while the bird was soaring. There appeared to be five emarginated primaries. The wing linings were mostly dark, perhaps with some sort of barred pattern. The body was boldly and thickly barred from about the lower breast down to the undertail coverts, reminiscent of a Hook-billed Kite (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*). The head and upper breast appeared dark and unbarred. The upperparts, seen briefly just once, looked all dark.

At first glance, the bird appeared to be a *Buteo* of about Red-tailed size, but the shape and plumage pattern looked wrong for any taxon or morph of Red-tailed Hawk, for Rough-legged Hawk, or indeed any other *Buteo*. In fact, the whole shape of the bird looked very unfamiliar in a North American context. A few seconds after the bird first appeared, O'Brien noticed the thin dark band near the base of the tail and the thickly barred underparts, and it then became clear that the bird was a European raptor species familiar from illustrations. He indicated to the other observers that he thought it was a honey buzzard and encouraged them to describe every detail of plumage and structure they could see. After the bird was out of sight, O'Brien made a sketch of the bird (Figure 1). Before consulting field guides, O'Brien asked the other observers how well they thought the sketch represented the bird. All agreed that the essential characters were there; two observers mentioned that they saw some dark spots or bars in the primaries that were not in the drawing. After consulting Lars Jonsson's *Birds of Europe* (1992) about 20 minutes after the observation, all agreed that the Honey Buzzard (*P. apivorus* sensu lato) depicted in that book was a perfect match for the bird observed.

Discussion

The bird observed at Little Creek Wildlife Management Area was identifiable as an adult male European Honey Buzzard rather than the similar Oriental (Crested) Honey Buzzard (*P. ptilorhynchus*) (see (Forsman 1994, Symens et al. 1996, Forsman and Shirihai 1997, Forsman 2007). The bird was an adult male based especially on the sharply defined ("dipped-in-ink") and restricted black primary tips (less clean cut and more extensive in adult female). Also, the relatively wide gap between the dark trailing edge to the wing and the dark bars toward the base of these feathers (smaller gap and, thus, more barring visible in adult female). Evidently, there was also a wide gap between the dark primary tips and dark markings toward the base of those feathers, hence O'Brien's impression that the primaries were mostly white (more bars visible in primaries in adult female). The tail pattern also looked better for adult male, with the thin dark bar located at the tips of the undertail coverts (beyond them in adult female with a second bar toward the base of the tail more obvious than in adult male). Juvenile Honey Buzzard was much easier to rule out given the broad dark terminal band on the tail and broad dark trailing edge to the wing combined with the lack of multiple, evenly spaced, thin dark bars in the tail, secondaries, and primaries.

The broad, dark trailing edge to the wing and wide gap between dark bands in the wing rule out both juvenile and adult female Oriental Honey Buzzard, both of which show multiple, evenly spaced, thin dark bands on these feathers and lack a pronounced dark trailing edge. Adult male Oriental Honey Buzzard is rule out by the tail pattern. In adult male Oriental, the black band at the base of the tail is very broad, so that the tail appears black with a broad pale band across the middle. The Delaware bird clearly had a very thin dark band across the base of the tail at the tips of the undertail coverts, the correct pattern only for adult male European Honey Buzzard. The pattern of dark in the primaries also fits European Honey Buzzard better than Oriental: the primaries looked mostly white and certainly did not have an obvious dark band across them at the level of emargination. The dark marks on the primaries must have been more toward the base so they appeared contiguous with the dark primary coverts. Likewise, the dark band at the base of the secondaries was very close to the dark coverts, leaving a wide gap between the thin dark band and the broad dark trailing edge. This is different from Oriental, which shows a second dark band closer to the trailing edge and clearly reaching the base of the wing. Adult male Oriental shows six emarginated primaries rather than five. As O'Brien watched the bird circle quite low overhead, he counted five emarginated primaries once on the left wing the wing tip (and sketched five emarginated primaries a few minutes later; Figure 1). More subjective structural characters also support European over Oriental, which looks shorter-tailed than the Delaware bird.

The observation was immediately reported with full details to local bird hotlines, to regional editors (Paxton et al. 1998), and to the Delaware Bird Records Committee. The Committee also received August reports of raptors identified as honey buzzards from the Logan Lane Tract of Ted Harvey Conservation Area (about 10 kilometers to the south), though it was not clear from the descriptions that the 11 August bird was involved; none of the reports were accepted (Rohrbacher 2000). Although some authorities still treated European Honey Buzzard as conspecific with Oriental Honey Buzzard in the 1990s, Oriental was readily ruled out, contrary to some subsequent suggestions.

How such a bird might arrive in Delaware is matter of conjecture, but it seems that a crossing in the easterly trade winds at the latitude of the West Indies—the "southern route" by which many Eurasian taxa reach the New World (Howell et al. 2014)—would be far more likely than a crossing at higher latitudes. To what degree such birds use ships to rest during such crossings is unknown, but one would expect the behavior to be relatively common in some taxa. Neither this species nor Oriental Honey Buzzard is known to be kept by falconers or in North American zoos.

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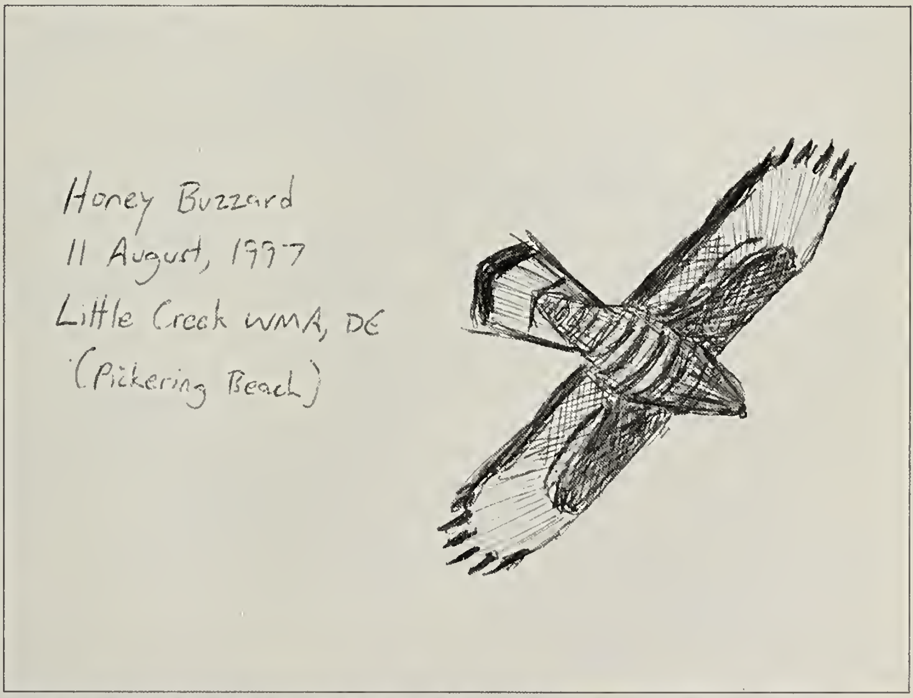

Figure 1. Field sketch of adult male European Honey Buzzard, Little Creek Wildlife Management Area, Kent County, Delaware, 11 August 1997. *Drawing by Michael O'Brien.*

The Changing Seasons: All over the map

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The Weather

Spring 2013 was unusual. From the eastern Great Plains to Appalachia, and into the Southeast, the season was much cooler and wetter than usual. In the West, and in New England, it was generally above average in terms of temperature but below average for precipitation (Figures 1, 2). Alaskan weather followed the trends in the middle of the continent, with a very cool spring, some 3.2° F below the 1971-2000 average; in fact, it was the eighteenth coolest spring in the state's 96 recorded spring seasons (Figure 3). Overall in the United States, temperatures in spring were 0.5° F below the twentieth-century average. California, where worsening drought has become a concern, recorded its eighth driest spring, with just 6 cm (2.34 inches) of

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At Saltillo, Coahuila, three Maroon-fronted Parrots were found feeding on an ornamental pine tree 2 March 2013 in Colonia 26 de Marzo along the Boulevard Humberto Cid González. Saltillo is in the Sierra Madre Oriental, squarely within the species' restricted range, whose borders are a scant hundred miles from the heavily birded Rio Grande Valley. Although perhaps fewer than 2500 Maroon-fronted Parrots still exist in the wild, their propensity to wander in search of food (mostly pinions) makes them a long-shot candidate to appear in the United States. This species is one of hundreds of under-appreciated birds of Mexico that deserve all birders' fascination and conservation commitment. *Photograph by Sergio Marines Gómez.*

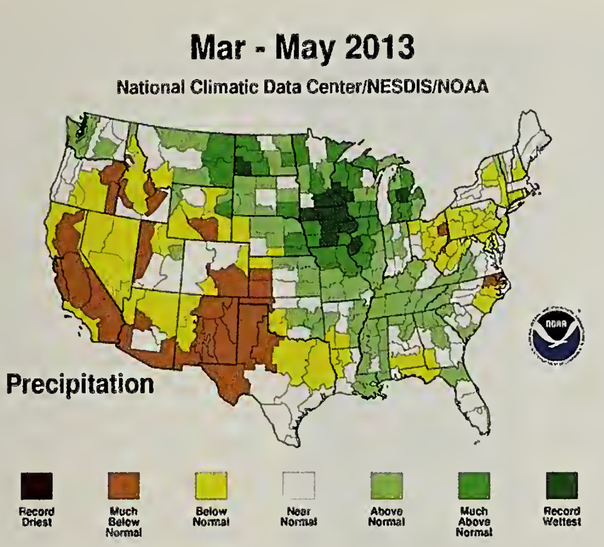


Figure 1. Precipitation anomalies in the Lower 48 United States for meteorological spring (March through May) 2013. *Map courtesy of the National Climatic Data Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

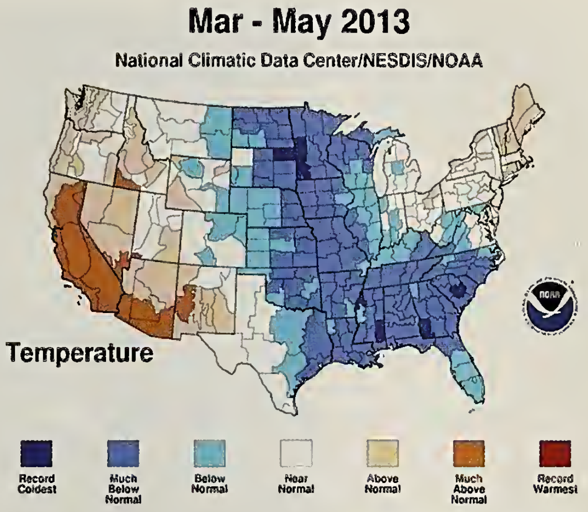


Figure 2. Temperature anomalies in the Lower 48 United States for meteorological spring (March through May) 2013. *Map courtesy of the National Climatic Data Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

precipitation recorded, and its seventh warmest spring, some 3.5° F above average. The southern Great Plains and New Mexico also recorded drought conditions. By contrast, Iowa had its wettest spring on record, with some 44.73 cm (17.61 inches) of precipitation measured, almost 22 cm above average. The northern Great Plains and Great Lakes states also received heavy rains, five states logging top ten wettest spring seasons. Alaska was likewise wet; May was about 25% above the 1971-2000 average in terms of precipitation, with snowfall extensive through the end of the season.

In recent years, our expectation of early springs, hot-hot summers, and long, warm autumns has mostly been met, but—as with recent winters, which can be astonishingly warm or brutally cold—the transitional seasons of autumn and spring have both shown wild variation, including some incredibly powerful storms and cold spells. The most recent meteorological thinking to address these swings in jet stream amplitude and temperature points to the loss of Arctic sea ice: the open ocean area there produces massive new amounts of energy in the atmosphere, and this energy has to go somewhere. Spring of 2013 seemed to offer a reprieve from the intense meteorological violence of recent years: after a tornado outbreak in late January, the cooler-than-average March and April period saw many late-winter storms but very little tornado activity. However, the last two weeks of May witnessed two major outbreaks, with an EF5 tornado leveling Moore, Oklahoma on 20 May.

Very little is known about the impacts of tornado outbreaks on birds; we know much more about mortality during floods, thunderstorms, and hailstorms. As birders, we wish birds an uneventful, smooth passage north to their breeding grounds in spring time—yet we often lament "lackluster" migration seasons in which the birds are not waylaid by bad weather, when we're most likely to see them in numbers. This complicated relationship with migrating birds, mentioned for many decades in this column, is a milder version of our pity/fascination with hurricane-displaced birds: they provide a glimpse into a phenomenon we might see just once or twice in a human lifetime. We are vexed.

But the rhythm of stormy weather is changing, and phrases like "hundred-year flood" are becoming less and less convincing, as meteorological events continue to shatter records around the globe annually. We are witness to more and more extreme weather events, and scientists warn that we should prepare for even more, in every category of "natural" disaster: fire, drought, flood, erosion, tornado, and storms of all sorts, tropical and otherwise. In the long-term forecasts, no place on the map is spared.

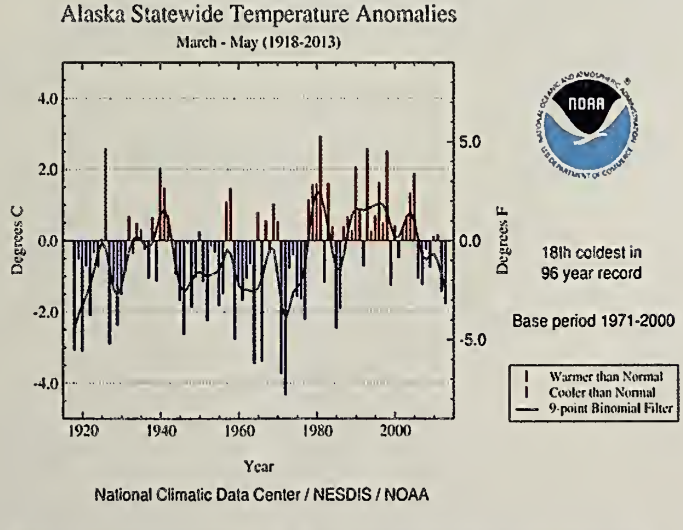


Figure 3. Temperature anomalies in the Alaska for meteorological spring (March through May), 1918 through 2013 (base period 1971-2000). *Graph courtesy of the National Climatic Data Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

Setbacks, fallouts

In this context, we comb the regional reports for concentrations of migrants that appear to be related to meteorological conditions, some starkly, others subtly. In spring 2013, we find these phenomena all over the map, from North to South, East to West.

Of all the examples this season, Thede Tobish's Alaska report stands out for its account of stalled migrants, especially in the upper Tanana Valley in mid-May, when bitter conditions made for vast congregations of geese, swans, cranes, eagles, and hawks. "The toll on migrants from these conditions was profound: many accounts of migrant concentrations and behaviors from the eastern interior areas were beyond the realm of anyone's experience." The Alaska regional report is not known for hyperbole, and it's worth reading the Special Attention box for the particulars, among them towns so full of starving, singing White-crowned Sparrows (Figure 4) that the chorus was called "deafening," the ground "in constant movement." Backyards hosted not just sparrows but yellowlegs and grebes, and Rusty Blackbirds took kinglets and redpolls as prey.

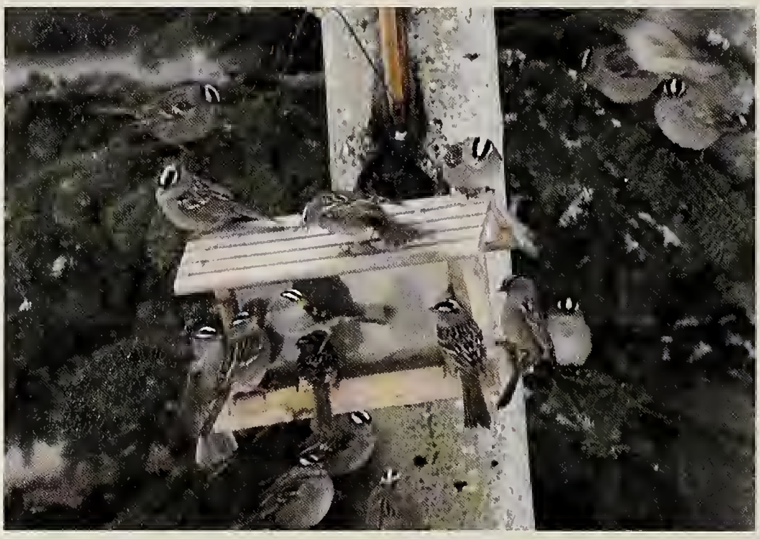


Figure 4. Just as warm weather at last reached the Great Plains and the East during the second and third weeks of May 2013, Alaska's interior experienced unusually cold and snowy conditions. Several wintry storms forced birds to seek food and shelter around settled areas and along road systems. These White-crowned Sparrows were part of a massive 13-15 May fallout of passerine migrants, estimated at more than 100,000 birds, around Tok, Alaska (here 14 May). *Photograph by James DeWitt.*

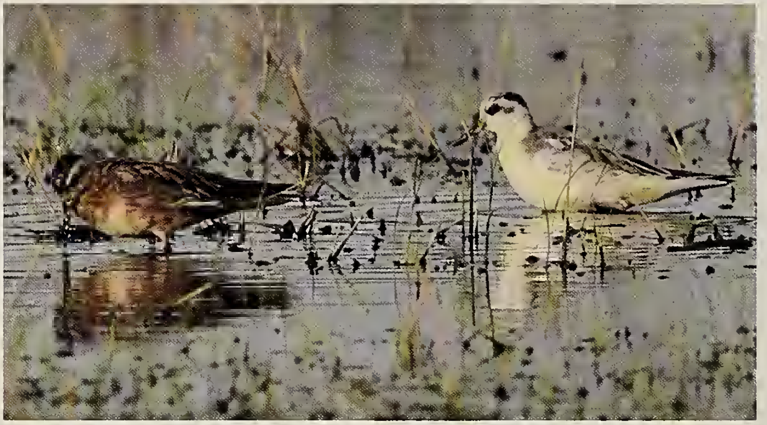


Figure 5. These two Red Phalaropes at Louisville, Kentucky 9 May 2013 represented a first spring record for the Tennessee and Kentucky region. They were part of an unprecedented showing of the pelagic phalaropes in early May in the interior central-eastern United States. *Photograph by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.*

Most weather-related fallouts and concentrations were not quite so Stephen Kingesque, but many were memorable. In the East, we rarely read much in spring about Red Phalarope migration, at least, not south of Canada or the Northeast, so this season's fallout of phalaropes, including many Reds (Table 1), was most unusual. In fact, in some areas, no spring fallout of Reds had ever been recorded: 2 near Louisville, Kentucky (Figure 5), the westernmost in this event, made first spring records for the state (and neighboring Tennessee still has no spring record). The highest count was from Amherst County, Virginia, where 6 remained for three days (Figure 6). Also occurring in similar numbers and locations during this period were less-unexpected Red-necked Phalaropes, including a smattering across the interior of North Carolina (high count of 3 in Guilford County 7 May) and West Virginia, where rare.

Based on the overall spread of phalarope records, one would assume it involved migrating birds from the South Atlantic Bight that were moved into and beyond the Carolinas 6-7 May, when southeasterly gales with rain were strongest (Figure 7) and when Red-necked Phalaropes started falling out from Georgia and South Carolina to northeastern Tennessee. Such birds, one could surmise, might have reoriented quickly, but a stalled area of low pressure over the Tennessee Valley, with extensive rain (Figure 7), kept the phalaropes grounded for a bit.

Twenty-five birds does not represent a "wreck" of Red Phalaropes such as one might see in the Pacific or on the New England coast or even in northern Manitoba, but regionally this event is very notable. Had the commencement (7-8 May) of the event coincided perfectly with the weekend (10-11 May), surely more birds would have been detected; most did not linger very long. And based on the later dates, one wonders whether some of the later, more northerly birds could have been reorienting migrants rather than fallout birds detected several days after they actually arrived. Shai Mitra, writing the spring report for the Hudson-Delaware region, rightly calls Red Phalarope "an enigmatic species": "unlike most rare birds, it seems to occur in a bewildering variety of dates and habitats." He notes an inland record from Round Valley Reservoir, Hunterdon County, New Jersey 19 March this spring as an example of a random record. Nearly as surprising this season, the northernmost record during the early May fallout came from northeastern Pennsylvania—on 5 May, thus found earlier than the birds in the Carolinas or Virginia, where the flight appears to have been earliest and heaviest. Hmm.

Were these phalaropes *displaced* inland by the coastal storm? This event was unlike other, mostly coastal concentrations of phalaropes in spring that we have treated in this essay, such as the ribbons of phalaropes that stretched from coastal New York to New Hampshire in late May 2005 (Leukering and Gibbons 2005). In 2005, it is worth noting that a few phalaropes were indeed found away from the coast, 5 birds about 30 kilometers inland and a single one 60 kilometers from the coast in Massachusetts (Perkins 2005). Were these birds displaced from coastal areas—or grounded while migrating overland? Or both? The coastal totals in 2005 were 638 Reds and 5306 Red-neckeds, so the paucity of interior records might suggest that healthier birds managed to stay out in salt water. The very next spring, 12-21 May 2006, we saw a phalarope fallout of a different sort, with fewer total birds but *many* inland. In the 2006 event, about 55 Red and 140 Red-necked Phalaropes were detected from Vermont and New Hampshire into Québec, which had 10 Reds, a total dubbed "unprecedented," as the province had just four spring records of single Reds 1960-2005 (Brinkley 2006). Once again, a coastal storm with easterly/northeasterly winds was associated with these records, but in this case, there was much rain to the north of the low, extending through New England into Québec, as well as rain associated with an interior low centered over the central Great Lakes for much of the week. In the 2013 event, almost all the birds were away from the coast, and some were far inland. The timing and pattern support the idea that these birds, or some of them, were grounded while moving over the interior, as occurred in 2006. But what we do not know about the 2006 or 2013 events is whether these birds were interrupted while engaged in a regular migratory movement over these areas—or rather were grounded by foul weather after having been displaced inland in an attempt to flee the coastal storm. The 2005 event perhaps lacked interior records comparable to 2006 or 2013 because rains and turbulence were not present in interior areas. Perhaps phalaropes did move into interior areas but took refuge in the St. Lawrence River or the eastern Great Lakes, well away from shore? One component in 2013 was the massive high-pressure area centered in the Northeast, a feature that completely shut down northbound migrants for more than a week. So were the phalaropes compelled westward and inland by the easterly winds on the southern edge of this Omega Block?

We still know very little about where many species of shorebird depart the coast to turn inland, though many birders have witnessed restless shorebirds flocking together tightly at the coast, rising very high in the sky, and heading to the northwest in the afternoon or evening. In the case of well-studied Whimbrels in the East, we know that many thousands stage for three or four weeks on the Virginia coast, then migrate overnight during about the third week of May, departing marshes east of Machipongo and arriving the next morning around Toronto, Ontario (Center for Conservation Biology, unpubl. data). But Red Phalaropes? Reds winter offshore as far north as the Carolinas, and certainly many do move northward in April and early May in pelagic waters. But do some of them turn inland in the Southeast, and if so, when and where? As with the overland migration of Purple Sandpiper, we have few records of migrants, and scant patterns, but the 2013 fallout hinted that Red Phalarope could overfly interior portions of the Carolinas, the Virginias, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Tennessee, and Kentucky each spring. A good reason to be out and about in nasty weather, even during the work week!

Stormy, rainy days in early May can be a good time to look for a variety of migrating waterbirds (and passerines) around inland reservoirs, as all veterans of the World Series of Birding know well! Once it became clear, thanks to listserve alerts and eBird, that phalaropes were falling out, many other notable birds were discovered grounded inland (Forster's, Arctic, and Common Terns!), mostly in Marlyand and Pennsylvanai, in addition to more expected species like Common Loon and Semipalmated Plover. Attention to inland wet spots suring storms in spring can produce small gulls as well, such as Little Gull (Figure 8), a species one hopes for under fallout conditions, but by early May, most Little Gulls were already far north: regional editor Tom Johnson counted 52 at Presque Isle, Pennsylvania on 27 March! (Marylanders did find one on rainy 7 May.) Phalaropes were primarily the birds in the crosshairs at this time and location, and it seems reasonable to speculate that most found inland were put down by the inland low, perhaps diverted there by the coastal low in the Southeast but also hemmed in by the high in the Northeast (Figure 7).

Figure 6. A strong low-pressure system over the mid-Atlantic states in early May 2013, combined with a blocking high-pressure area to the north and a rainy low to the west, produced fallouts of several species of tern and shorebird, among them Red Phalarope, for which Virginia and Maryland had no records of spring fallouts. This bird at Mill Creek Lake, Amherst County, Virginia was found by Mark Johnson 6 (here 7) May, one of 6 there and 14 total in the Middle Atlantic region. *Photograph by Jim Elder.*

Farther north, in New England, similarly messy weather along the coast, this time with fog, resulted in a more familiar fallout, this time of Neotropical migrant passerines. Greg Hanisek noted that spring 2013 in New England was marked by a later-than-average migration (the latest since 2009), owing mostly to the cool weather and numerous blocking patterns in the region and south of the region. He writes: "Of course, inclement weather is a two-sided coin, and when pent-up *Zugunruhe* finally wins out, major flights can occur, and precipitation or fog can yield spectacular fallouts." In the last few days of May, the weather map in the Northeast was messy: a warm front over eastern upstate New York met the northerly winds of a high centered off Nova Scotia, with rain and fog between them, particularly at the coast (Figure 9). Hanisek, in an extended Special Attention box, describes the experiences of birders on and off the coast of Maine, where it rained birds, most especially *Empidonax* flycatchers—more than most of us have logged in a lifetime of birding. Legendary Monhegan Island alone recorded no fewer than 770 *Empidonax*, including at least 22 Yellow-bellied and two Acadian Flycatchers (Figure 10), not a species recorded annually in Maine. On the coast, Marshall Iliff counted over 5000 passerines moving inland at Biddeford, among them 18 warbler species. The unexpectedly low numbers of "easterly" migrants such as Northern Parula, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Blackpoll Warbler at Biddeford and on Monhegan might hint that the origin of these falling-out birds was interior rather than coastal. Hanisek notes: "The signature of each fallout event is different and may involve very specific parcels of co-migrants; the 30 May fallout seemed clearly to involve more westerly species, which predominantly winter in Middle America, many of which are are circum-Gulf migrants rather than trans-Gulf or Caribbean migrants. In this year, it may be that more easterly species such as Blackpoll Warbler (often thought of as 'late' migrants) were able to arrive earlier, while more westerly migrants were severely delayed by a series of cold fronts affecting Texas as well as unsettled weather over the East."

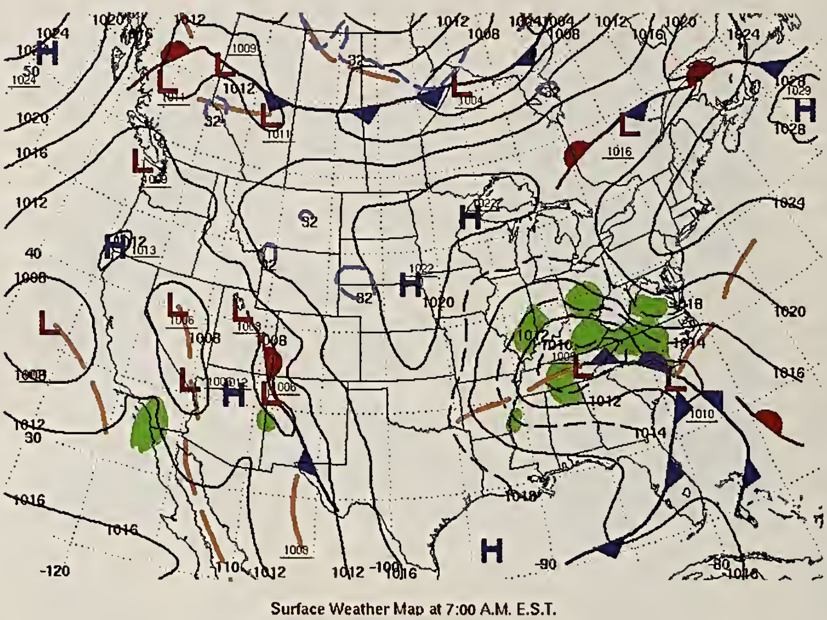


Figure 7. Surface weather map for 6 May 2013 (0700 EST), showing one low-pressure feature at the South Carolina coast, another centered on the Tennessee Valley, with a stalled frontal boundary between them, and a blocking high stationed off the Northeast. Associated rain and winds extended eastward from the Tennessee Valley to the Mississippi to the Ohio basins to the coast, so that phalaropes would have been inhibited from continuing migration until the weather cleared (mostly by 8 or 9 May). This unusual "triple play" of systems could account for the rarity of this fallout event. *Map courtesy of the National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

Table 1. Records of Red Phalaropes in unexpected locations, 5-16 May 2013.

Date	Number	Location
5 May	1	State Game Lands 236, *Susquehanna*, PA
7 May	1	Greenlick Run Lake, *Fayette*, PA
7 May	2	Shirley Plantation, *Charles City*, VA
7 May	1	Stuarts Draft W.T.P., *Augusta*, VA
7-9 May	6	Mill Creek Lake, *Amherst*, VA
8 May	1	*Rockbridge*, VA
8 May	2	Cape Charles harbor, *Northampton*, VA
8 May	2	Melco Flood Retention Basin, *Jefferson*, KY
8-9 May	1	Lilypons Water Gardens, *Frederick*, MD
8-10 May	1	Forsythe N.W.R., *Atlantic*, NJ
9 May	1	Swan Harbor Farm, *Harford*, MD
9 May	1	Greencastle Reservoir, *Franklin*, PA
9-11 May	1	Kriner Road ponds, *Franklin*, PA
11 May	1	Meadowlands, *Bergen*, NJ
11 May	1	Williamsport, *Lycoming*, PA
13-16 May	1	Battelle-Darby Creek Metropark area, *Franklin*, OH
15 May	1	Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster*, PA

Fallouts of migrants in coastal New England and Atlantic Canada are staples of this column (for spring 2011, see Iliff et al. 2011) and of journal articles—most recently, McLaren and McLaren (2009), which was one of the first articles to attempt to use eBird data combined with meteorological data to track the migrants from their most likely point of departure to their point of discovery. Since that time, more and more scientific work has been done in Europe and now North America (see Cornell Lab's BirdCast at <birdcast.info>) on the tracking of "parcels" of air, cohesive units in which migrating birds move. For five decades, bird movements have been studied with radar, and we know a great deal about the movements of large numbers of migrants with respect to wind, rain, and fog, especially along predictable routes such as in the Great Lakes region or the route between the Yucatan Peninsula and the Gulf coast states, where birders have a highly refined understanding of what conditions are most likely to precipitate significant fallouts (Figure 11), which occasionally include unexpected tropical species such as Shiny Cowbird (Figure 12). We

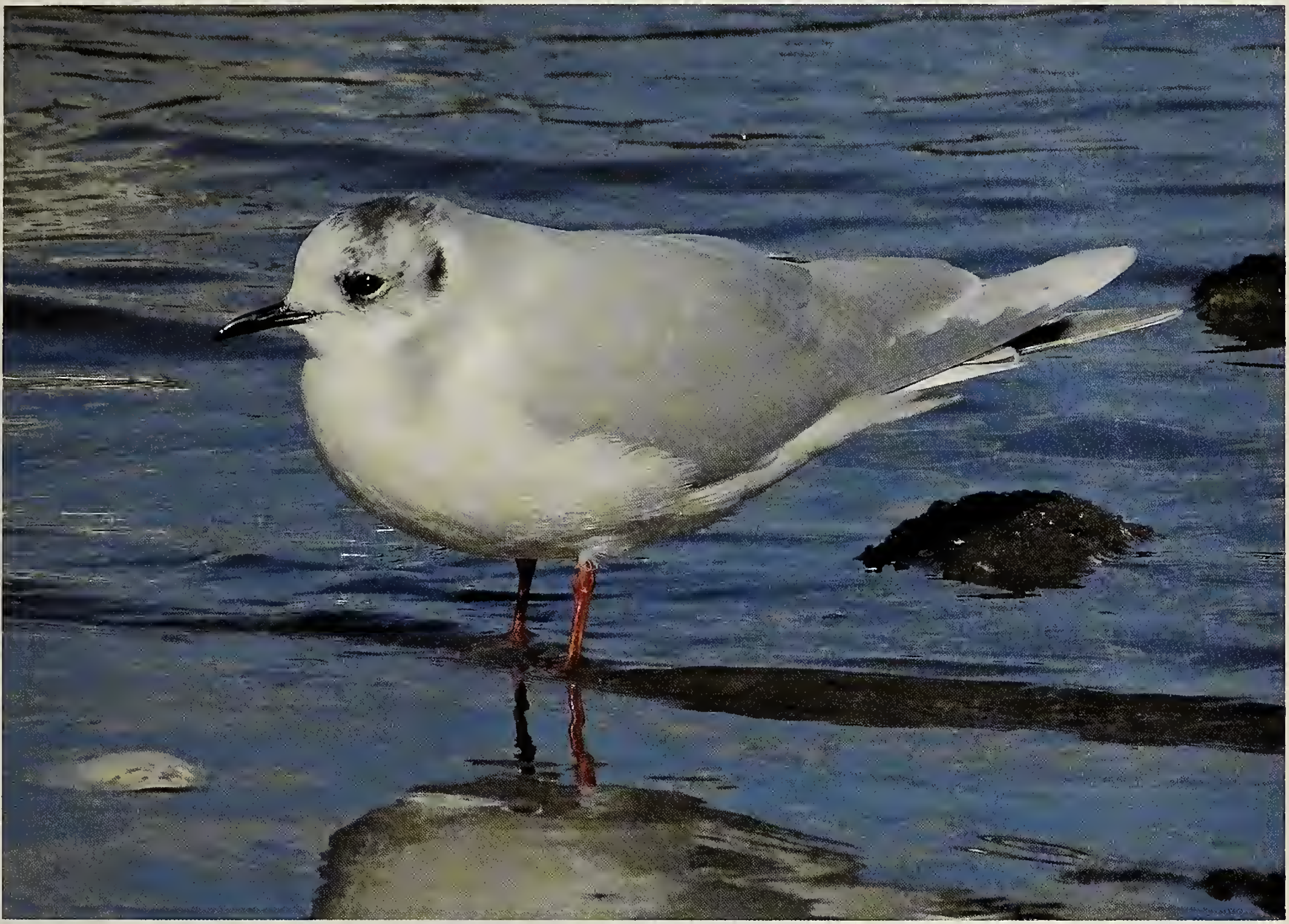


Figure 8. The Monmouth County, New Jersey shore of Raritan Bay often hosts staging flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls along with of their scarcer associates, such as this Little Gull, here photographed 3 April 2013. Foul weather can be an excellent time to search for this species on interior lakes, but this bird was found on a pleasant day with light offshore breeze. As with Bonaparte's Gull, the phenology of migration of Little Gull in North America seems to be changing in recent years. *Photograph by Tom Boyle.*

know far less, however, about the spring movements of seabirds such as phalaropes, jaegers, and small gulls, such as Sabine's Gulls (Figure 13), some of which are so rarely reported from vast parts of the interior that one doubts that their status as spring migrants there at all. Every once in a while, though, spring birders in the West hit the jackpot. This season, the Kelowna Landfill in British Columbia had 2 adult Sabine's Gulls appear 29 April and stay through 3 May, on which day 2 adults showed up at Lewiston, Idaho and one adult appeared in eastern Washington in the Walla Walla River delta. Two days later, on 5 May, Wyoming had its first spring record at Ray Lake Marsh; and Colorado had its third spring record

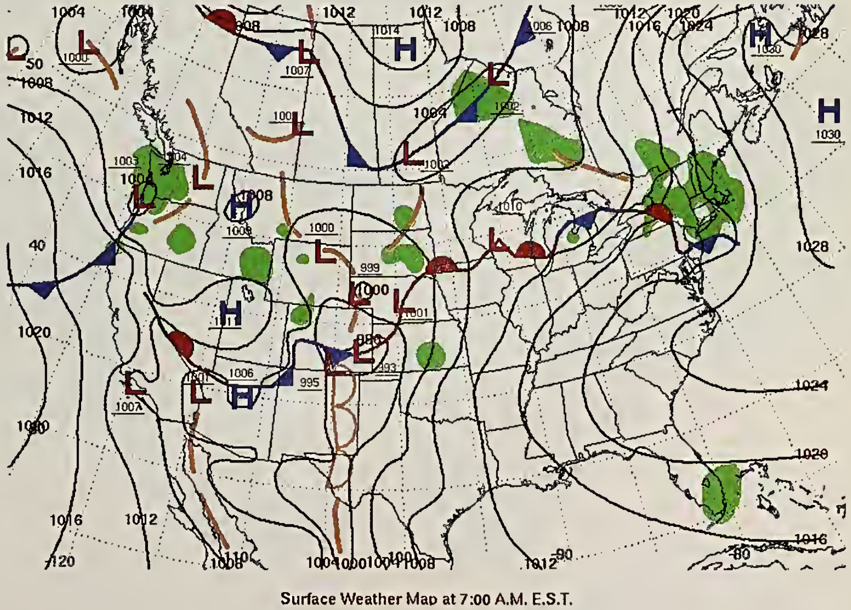


Figure 9. Surface weather map for 29 May 2013 (0700 EST), showing a stalled frontal boundary with rain (and fog) extending from the Adirondacks to the New England coast. *Map courtesy of the National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

later in the month. There seems to be no smoking gun on the weather maps to connect any of these records to weather conditions, nor the big flocks observed inland this spring: 100 at Nakusp, British Columbia 23 May; 51 at Frank Lake, Alberta 24 May; 100 on Okanagan Lake, British Columbia 29 May; and 71 near Fort McMurray, Alberta 31 May. These numbers recall the puzzling records of hundreds of Sabine's Gulls in eastern Washington in late May 2008, and one has to wonder what their "normal" overland routes to breeding grounds in spring typically are.

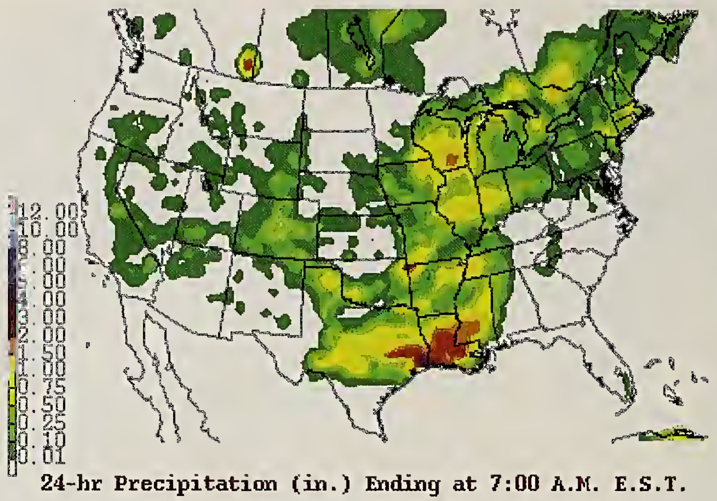


Figure 11. Graphic showing rainfall amounts for the 24-hour period ending 0700 EST on 10 May 2013. The previous evening was characterized by light southerly winds. Gulf coastal birders know how to interpret such a map: be on the coast in a vagrant/migrant trap near the Texas/Louisiana border before dawn. *Graphic courtesy of and copyright the National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

Eastward shifts

Probably among the most jaw-dropping presentations of eBird data, the animated Occurrence Maps available for some species provide a window on the future of status-and-distribution information. Massive libraries full of state and provincial monographs, atlases, and checklists will surely give way to these beautiful graphics that tell us so much and so economically. See for yourself, with the Swainson's Hawk map, which makes the species' movements appear like the blossoming of a great luminous flower: <ebird.org/content/ebird/occurrence/swainsons-hawk/>. Note in this gif graphic how the birds stay to the western edge of the Great Plains during their spring migration, almost perfectly along the 100th meridian west, which forms the boundary between the eastern border of the Texas panhandle and Oklahoma. Spring migrants east of that boundary, especially east of the Plains, are scarce, and the species becomes progressively rarer east of the Missouri River and into the Mississippi River basin. Small numbers, however, are often detected at spring hawkwatches along the southern shores of the Great Lakes (even Lake Ontario), usually during passage of Broad-winged Hawks in April, and it seems likely that the increase in records is largely, but not entirely, due to greater observer numbers, vigilance, awareness. However, the flight in spring 2013 was "remarkable" in Missouri and Iowa (Figure 14) and "unprecedented" in Illinois and Indiana. Migration peaked at 65 birds in Buchanan County, Missouri on 20 April; to the north, Mills County, Iowa had 48 on 24 April.

Figure 10. During a significant fallout on Monhegan Island, Maine in late May (here 26 May) 2013, this wet Acadian Flycatcher was all too ready to accept mealworms; apparently refreshed, the bird was actively flycatching the next morning. *Photograph by Jeannette Lovitch.*

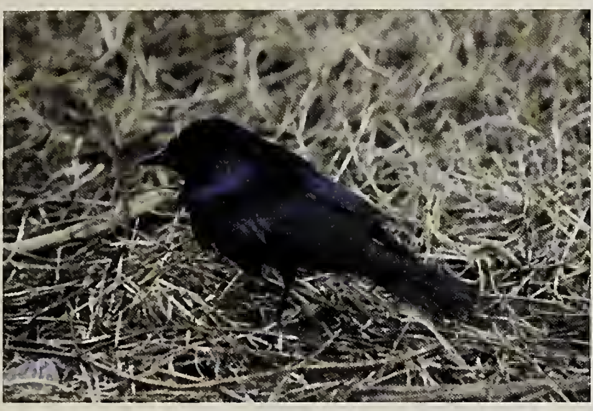


Figure 12. Exhibiting sluggish behavior suggestive of a newly arrived trans-Gulf migrant, this male Shiny Cowbird found at Cocodrie, Terrebonne Parish after a heavy downpour 10 May 2013 made a first for the central Louisiana coast. *Photograph by John Conover.*

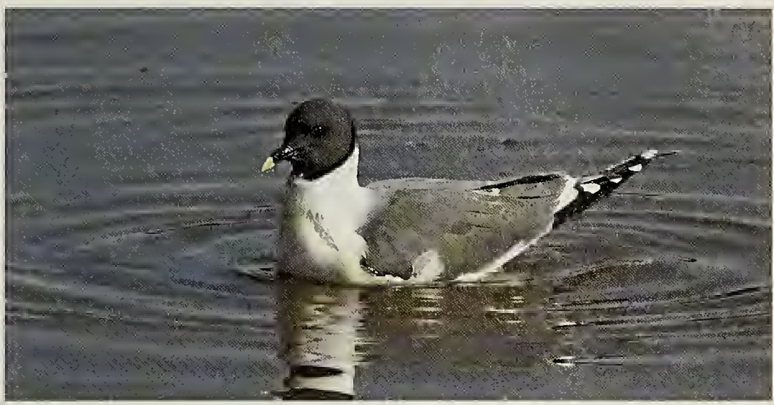


Figure 13. Spring 2013 was unusually productive for records of Sabine's Gull in the interior of British Columbia, where normally none are reported in spring, with notable records extending to eastern Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, and Colorado as well. This adult was one of two at the Kelowna Landfill 3 May 2013, first detected there on 29 April. *Photograph by Dean O'Dea.*

Granted, most of the dozens of birds recorded in these states were in the western third of each state, but records spanned both states. To the east, Illinois and Indiana—which often have zero spring reports of migrant Swainson's (though a few pairs still nest in Illinois)—had reports of 25 birds in total, 19 of these in the period 19-27 April and all but 2 in Illinois.

Jim Hengeveld, Keith McMullen, and Geoff Williamson write that this spike in records followed "several powerful weather systems that moved across the Plains, packing strong southerly and southwesterly winds. These strong weather patterns likely pushed Swainson's Hawks from their normal, more westerly migratory paths eastward into the Region." We see such a system on weather maps just prior to the majority of Illinois and Iowa records (Figure 15), and surely in a spring with multiple such systems, the longitudinal shift in migrants is correctly surmised here. But Swainson's Hawks are also wintering farther and farther north (into southern Texas) and east (southern Louisiana, Florida) in recent years, and we see not just a scatter of records into Arkansas and Louisiana in the spring but very strong counts (up to 50) from places like Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge in Holt County, Missouri in the two weeks prior to the big spike to the north. Of course, this location is barely east of the Missouri River, but these counts were locally high, suggesting that the easterly aspect of the 2013 migration was already beginning in early April. eBird maps show for the month represent this anomaly neatly, of course.

These eastward shifts of migrants, more dramatic in the case of Swainson's Hawks over Illinois in late April, less so in the ratios of warbler species on the coast of Maine in late May, surely occur with other migrants that normally migrate west of 100° W longitude, but it is not possible in most cases to associate weather systems with their appearances. Lazuli Bunting and McCown's Longspur (Figures 16, 17) are two examples of sought-after species in the eastern Great Plains eastward, and certainly it's possible that storms were responsible in some way for bringing these species to Québec and to Georgia this season. But the important storms could well have been autumn storms rather than spring storms: the Georgia longspurs were found 2 March and though they appeared after a storm could well have been wintering at the site. The Québec bunting could have wintered in the Southeast, as with some spring migrant Western Tanagers found in the East (Brinkley 2009), but Lazuli Buntings were found in high numbers in the Upper Midwest this season, as in 2009 (Brinkley 2009). Whatever the case, the unsettled late May weather, with a rainy low centered on Québec City 24 May moving across Maine through 27 May, surely contributed to the bunting's detection. Spring 2013 produced a roster of records suggestive of multiple eastward shifts for some birds: Oregon Junco numbers were way up in New York and Québec (10 total), while rare spring records of Whimbrel, Western Willet, and American Golden-Plover came from the Atlantic Provinces.

Patch birders who are dialed into migration seasons that seem to have a "western" flavor in the East (or vice-versa) often stalk micro-habitats for strays. One has to wonder what better place than the Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge in Ulster County, New York for a vagrant Smith's Longspur to hang out (Figure 18); there was no big weather system that week to push this bird eastward from the Midwest (but perhaps the previous week, Figure 15?). Or had this bird wintered in the Southeast? Longspurs tell no tales.

Northward, ho!

The process by which vagrants become pioneers become prospectors become nesters plays out a little bit more each spring season. Familiar old friends in this scenario since the 1990s are the ibises, especially Glossy and White-faced, which now stray regularly well north of former range each spring and summer, coming into contact with each other at migration sites (Figure 19) as well as in nesting colonies, where mixed pairs (and sometimes hybrids) are recorded with increasing frequency. Even in a cold, late spring like 2013, ibises we once might have called "accidentals" or "overshooting" were hardcore pioneers up through the Great Plains and Western Great Lakes, where a record flight was documented. In Manitoba, Rudolf Koes and Peter Taylor write that the movement in mid-April was "unprecedented," with up to 7 White-faceds around Powerview "becoming unlikely lawn ornaments, contrasting nicely with the melting snow banks, where melt-water furnished much-needed invertebrate prey." In Minnesota, some 29 counties reported White-faced, as did 10 counties in Wisconsin and three in Michigan, with most of the action occurring in April. According to regional editor Adam Byrne, documentation was generally very good from Minnesota, but many of the records to the east "were not accompanied by sufficient details to rule out hybrids." Indiana and Illinois were on the edge of these big numbers in the Great Lakes but also recorded high counts and early arrivals. The flight appears to have been bounded on the west by a few early, chilly White-faceds in the Red River Valley of North Dakota and perhaps in the southwest by 29 birds east to

Linn County, Kansas 28 April. Most unexpected in this chilly winter and spring was a White-faced found at Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, North Carolina 25 February, which was joined by 4 *more* White-faceds in a flock of early Glossies 12 March! Florida birders seem to be finding more and more wintering White-faced Ibis lately, so perhaps the Carolina birds came up from Florida rather than farther west. Small numbers of White-faced (and a few Glossy) made token appearances in northern Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Kentucky as well. Out in British Columbia, Chris Charlesworth reports that sightings of White-faced are "increasingly common," with one documented off Vancouver Island 31 May. Reports were generally up in the Pacific Northwest, from northern California to eastern Washington.

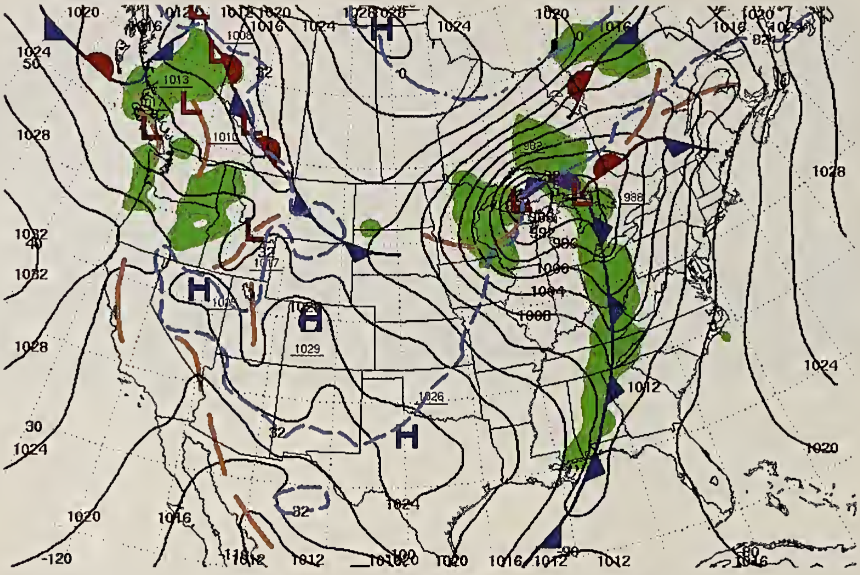
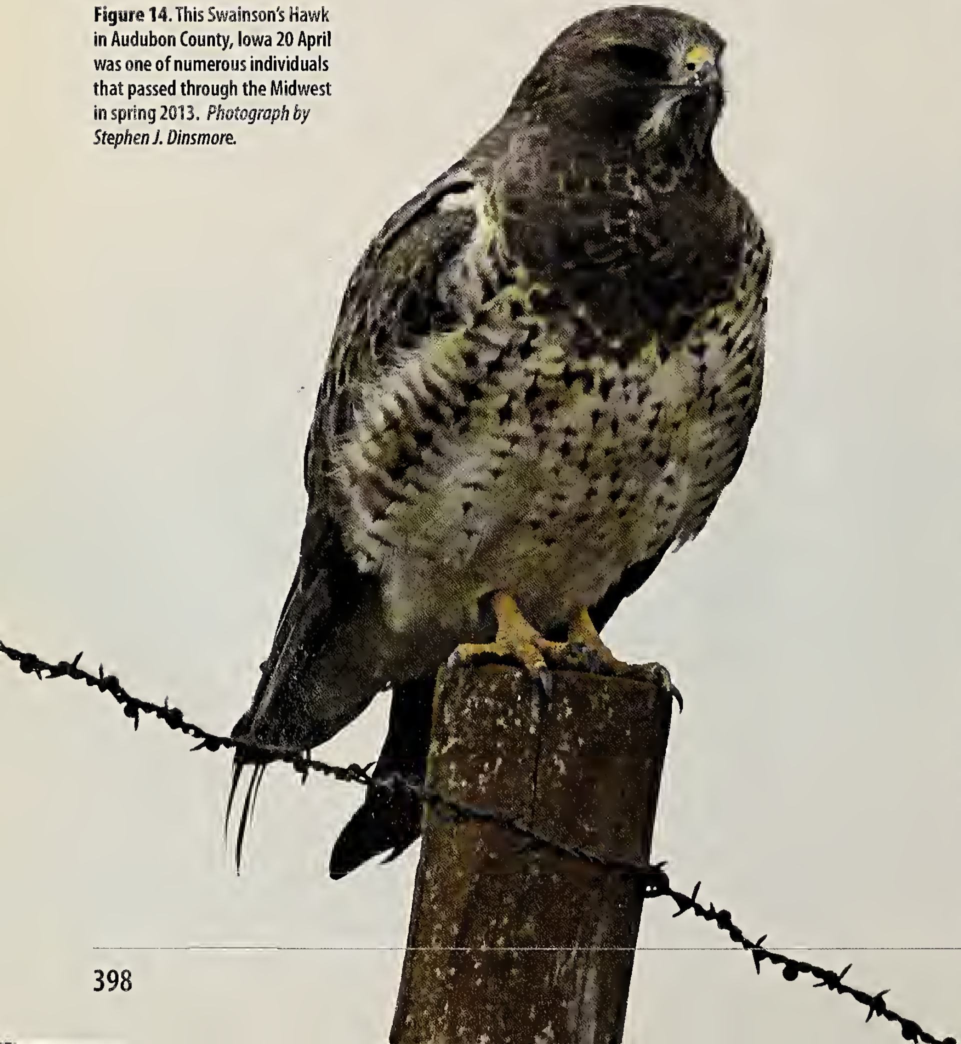


Figure 15. Surface weather map for 19 April 2013 (0700 EST), showing the powerful low-pressure system traversing the Great Lakes that appears to be associated with the eastward shift in migration of some Swainson's Hawks and of other species, including possibly Missouri's amazing Golden-cheeked Warbler. *Map courtesy of the National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

Figure 14. This Swainson's Hawk in Audubon County, Iowa 20 April was one of numerous individuals that passed through the Midwest in spring 2013. *Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore.*



Glossy Ibis did not show quite the big push that its western counterpart did this season, but the trend is still toward increasing records in the West, if not North. A northerly Glossy Ibis arrived in mid-April at Saint-Joseph-de-Beauce, Québec, and 8 reached New Brunswick during the season. Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota had rare records of singles in May; less unexpected were a few in Nebraska, Kansas, Arizona, and New Mexico, and 22 were reported in Colorado, where the species has been removed from the review list. Glossy Ibis made news in Central America, where Lee Jones and Oliver Komar report that the species has become expected in numbers in Belize and where Guatemala recorded its first ever on 15 March at San Cristóbal Verapaz. Hybrid *Plegadis* were reported from Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Maryland, and Veracruz. The commingling of genetic material in this genus, apparently as a result of their simultaneous expansion in virtually every direction, is one of the more fascinating events of this warming period but is regrettably not well under investigation. Birders can make great contributions by paying close attention to, and photographing, *Plegadis* that appear intermediate or atypical in plumage and entering them into eBird.

Less conspicuous than the ibises, Lesser Goldfinches continue their stunning northward march. In the 1980s, the species was called a "rare vagrant" north to Idaho, Wyoming, British Columbia, and the Dakotas (Peterson 1990). A quarter-century later, the species has barnstormed northward through the Great Basin, including all of Nevada and Utah and into southern Idaho, and even pioneered southeastern Wyoming and southern Montana, while on the eastern fringes of range in the Great Plains, nesters have been found from the Texas Panhandle north to western South Dakota. In many cases, nesters don't persist for more than

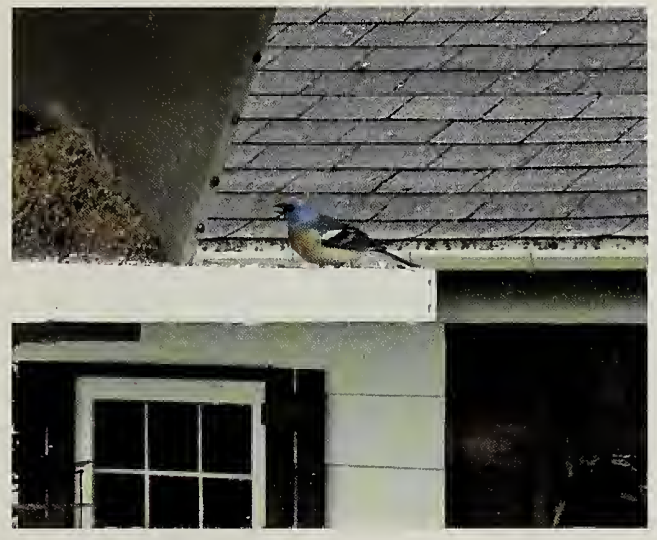


Figure 16. This adult male Lazuli Bunting at Québec City 25-26 (here 26) May 2013 furnished only the second provincial record confirmed with a photograph. *Photograph by Marie and Michel Bourassa.*

a few years, but the overall trend is for northward range expansion. Like this ibises, Lesser Goldfinch provides a lot of records for analysis over a large area, and the increasing number of spring and summer vagrants (Figure 20) allows some limited understanding about how the species' range is expanding. Such birds also give us general models for understanding much less common birds, for which far fewer data are available. We are far from being able to call our reckonings "science," but we are getting closer—mostly because our observations now entered into a common database.

But even without scientific studies, we may well find that the next waves of southern birds north are predictable. Records in the past 20 years suggest that these should be the birds inching northward in at least one of the southern border states and occasionally found north of those states as vagrants; species escaping drought in spring, such as Cassin's Sparrow (Iliff et al. 2011) are exceptions, in that they generally return to core range after escape flights. Although no one predicted the wild wanderings of Crested Caracaras in North America (Figure 21), we might have had them on a Watch List if we had been more attentive to their slow northward advancement in Arizona, which began in the late twentieth century. A species recently recorded north to Michigan, Short-tailed Hawk should probably be on such a Watch List, having expanded its ranged northward in Florida and having cleared the Florida border into Alabama—and for the first time to Georgia this spring (Figure 22). Georgia birders were ready, and chance does favor the prepared birder.

We had little reason, however, to anticipate the appearance of a singing Golden-cheeked Warbler in the Wichita Mountains of Oklahoma 6-11 May, much less one at Creve Coeur, St. Louis County, Missouri 19-22 April (Figures 23, 24)! Just two fall vagrant Golden-cheeked Warblers have been recorded, in Florida (1964) and California (1971),

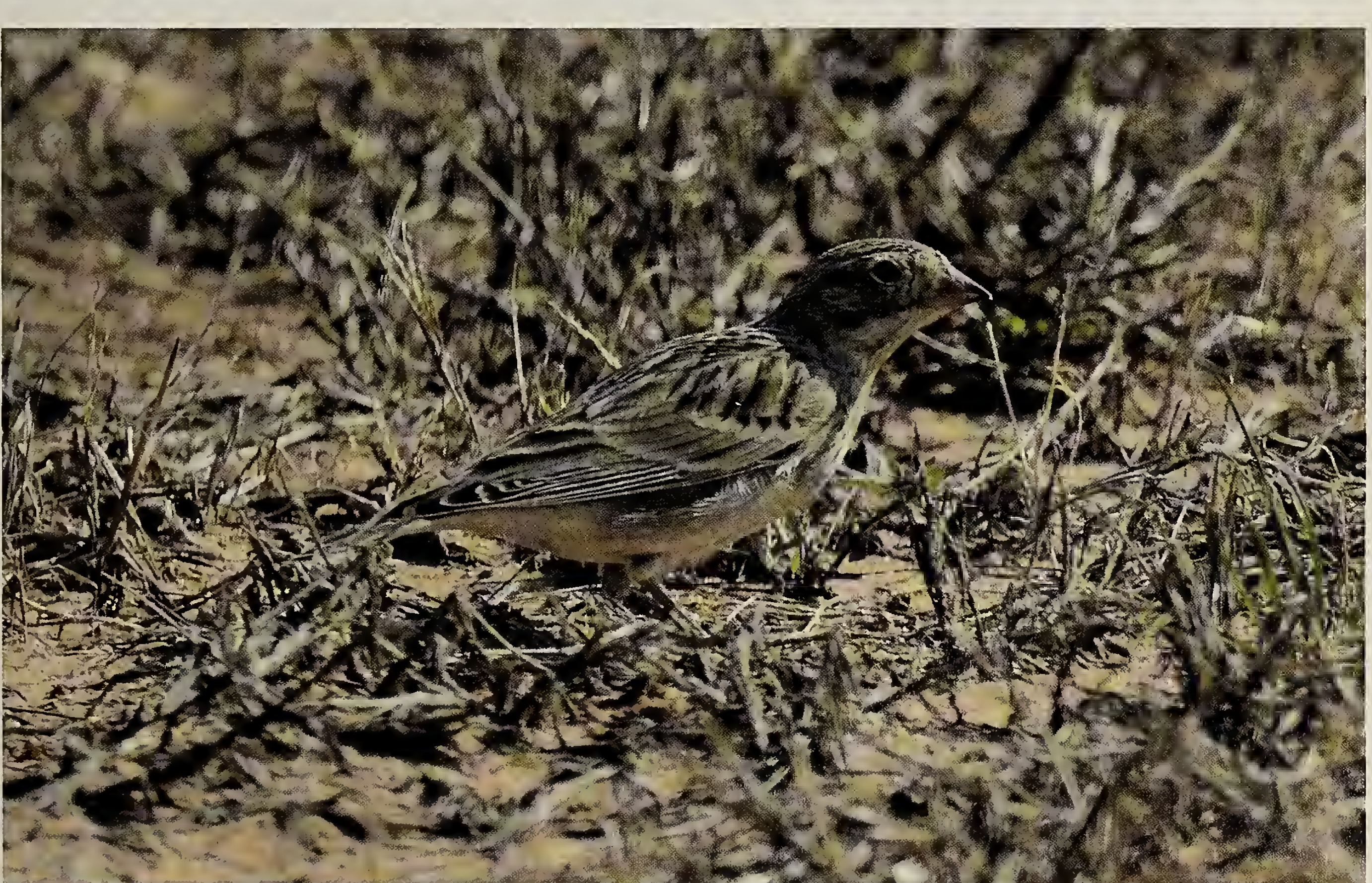


Figure 17. Providing Georgia with its first state record was this McCown's Longspur, one of two present on a sod farm in Macon County 2-30 (here) March 2013. The species is unexpected away from the continent's center, but Tennessee garnered its second record this spring, on 23 March. *Photograph by Michael D. McBrien.*

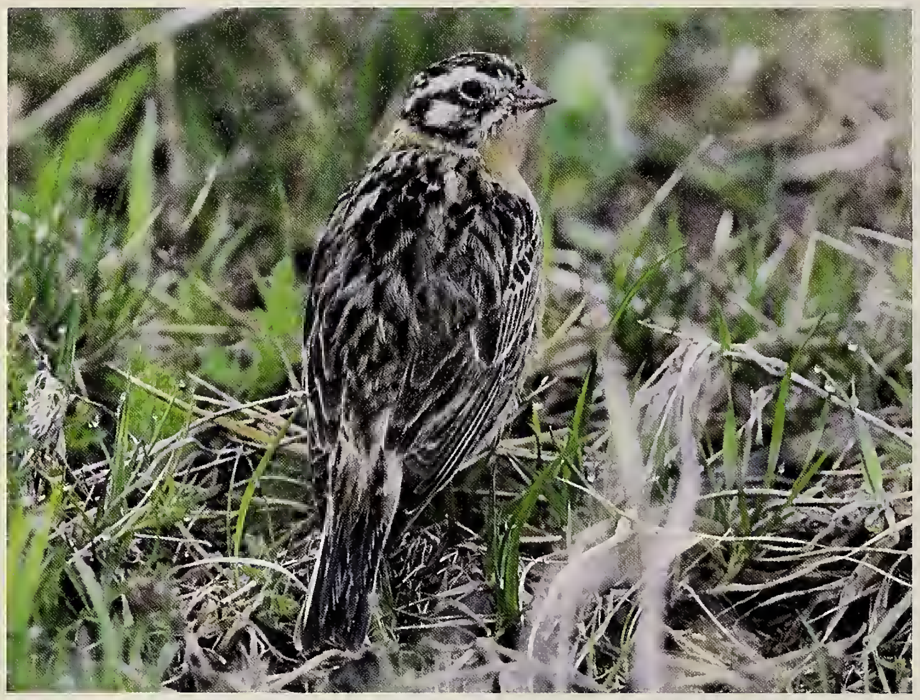


Figure 18. Utterly unexpected was this Smith's Longspur at the Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge, Ulster County 28-30 (here 30) April 2013, a third for New York. The species' regular migratory routes in spring lie well to the west, regularly into western Ohio. *Photograph by Peter Schoenberger.*

both young males; the 2005 appearance of a male in the Ramble of New York's Central Park was a purely fictional and unconscionable taunt (*Will & Grace*, Season 7, Episode 17). All evidence suggests that populations of this species are in decline (due to rapid loss of habitat), so we might put the Missouri bird in the all-purpose "overshoot" bin for now, along with recent spring records in Ontario of Hooded Oriole, Black-capped Vireo, and Varied Bunting (not to mention Virginia's Warbler, Lesser Nighthawk, and Cave Swallow). Such border-state specialties did not reach Ontario this season, but single Scott's Orioles managed to reach Oklahoma and Arkansas, a Hooded Oriole made it to Nebraska this spring (and one lingered in Alabama), and spring Cave Swallows were in Massachusetts and New Jersey. We can neither overlook the likely influence of weather events on such birds nor attribute their appearances solely to weather events, but it will be interesting to see if these mostly few records multiply and tempt us to see patterns. One wonders whether these Golden-cheeked Warblers weren't striking out away from the parched Texas Hill Country, much of which was classified as a Drought Disaster Area in 2013. It's important to remember that a few Golden-cheekeds have turned up as vagrants *within* Texas, so we might have suspected a spring overshoot outside the state at some point. In almost all cases of outlandish border-state birds turning up hundreds or thousands of kilometers north of range in spring, southerly or southwesterly winds immediately precede their detections. That doesn't tell us anything about the biological impulses that resulted in their vagrancy, but it reminds us that the southwesterlies preceding passage of a strong low are as important to monitor as those classic "fallout" conditions.

What other southern species should be on our Watch List? We certainly would not put Smooth-billed Ani this list, given its sad near-disappearance from Florida, where it is listed as endangered; but what about Snail Kite or Purple Swamphen, now recorded north to South Carolina (2007) and Georgia (2009), respectively? Florida has often been assumed to be the source of vagrant Gray Kingbirds in the East (attempted nesting now known north to North Carolina), but it seems easily as likely that the Caribbean is the source of some of these birds, along with some Black-whiskered Vireos and probably some White-cheeked Pintails. But who among us was ready

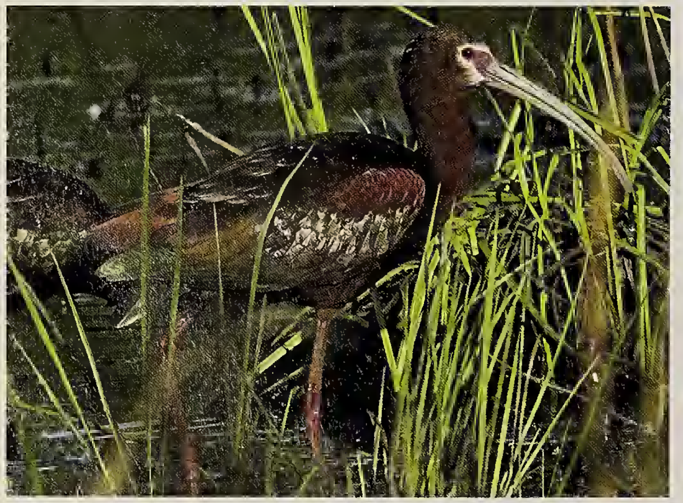


Figure 19. *Plegadis* ibis were plentiful in the Tennessee and Kentucky region in spring 2013. This White-faced Ibis was present with two Glossies in Trigg County, Kentucky 24 May 2013. *Photograph by Melody Cunningham.*

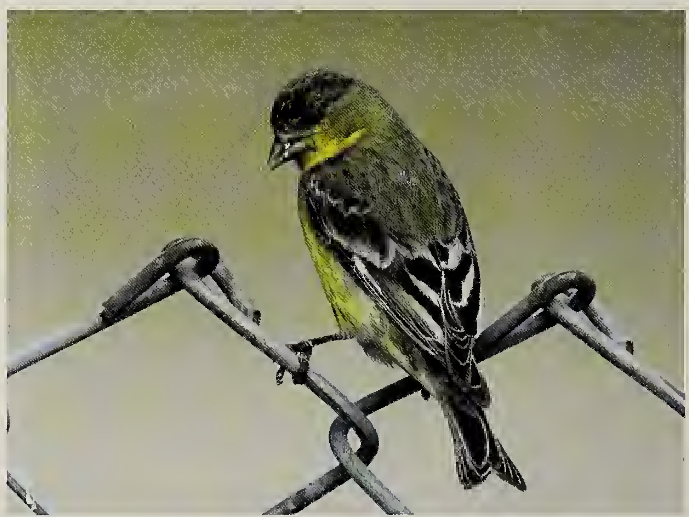


Figure 20. Extralimital Lesser Goldfinches continue to amaze us. Jaws dropped when one appeared in the Yukon in 2006, almost 2000 kilometers out of range. This immature male at Whitehorse 27 May 2013 (here) stayed around through at least 14 June, the Yukon's well-watched second. The species continues to "explode" east the of Cascades in Washington and Oregon and was noted in Cass County, Missouri and at Dillon, Montana in spring 2013 as well. *Photograph by Cameron Eckert.*

for the report of a Bahama Woodstar in eastern Pennsylvania this spring (Figure 25)? Few birds this rare have been recorded in the East, but maybe we should reserve judgment—the first few Green Violetears and Green-breasted Mangos were thought to be anomalies, too. Should Georgia birders be listening for the calls of La Sagra's Flycatchers in mid-December? Or watching wetlands for Arawak Short-eared Owls, as Florida birders call the darker Caribbean birds that appear almost annually there? As Howell, Lewington, and Russell (2014) argue, the vagrancy patterns of West Indian birds to the United States mainland remain the least easily explained of all, even more so than patterns of Asian, European, South American, and African birds. We know almost nothing about inter-island movements of native landbirds in the Caribbean, most of which must have some capacity for dispersal. And taxonomy of many West Indian birds is still unsettled, which doesn't help matters.

Perhaps most interesting in these waves of exploration and colonization is that some of the landbirds familiar from the border states in the twentieth century have become scarce or even absent in the current century, rather than detected increasingly farther north. Brown Jay, Tamaulipas Crow, and Hook-billed Kite were formerly detectable in moderate numbers in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas but have now become infrequent visitors (none detected in 2013, for instance), and Buff-collared Nightjar also seems to have mostly winked out in southeastern Arizona, though there was one marvelously documented record this season

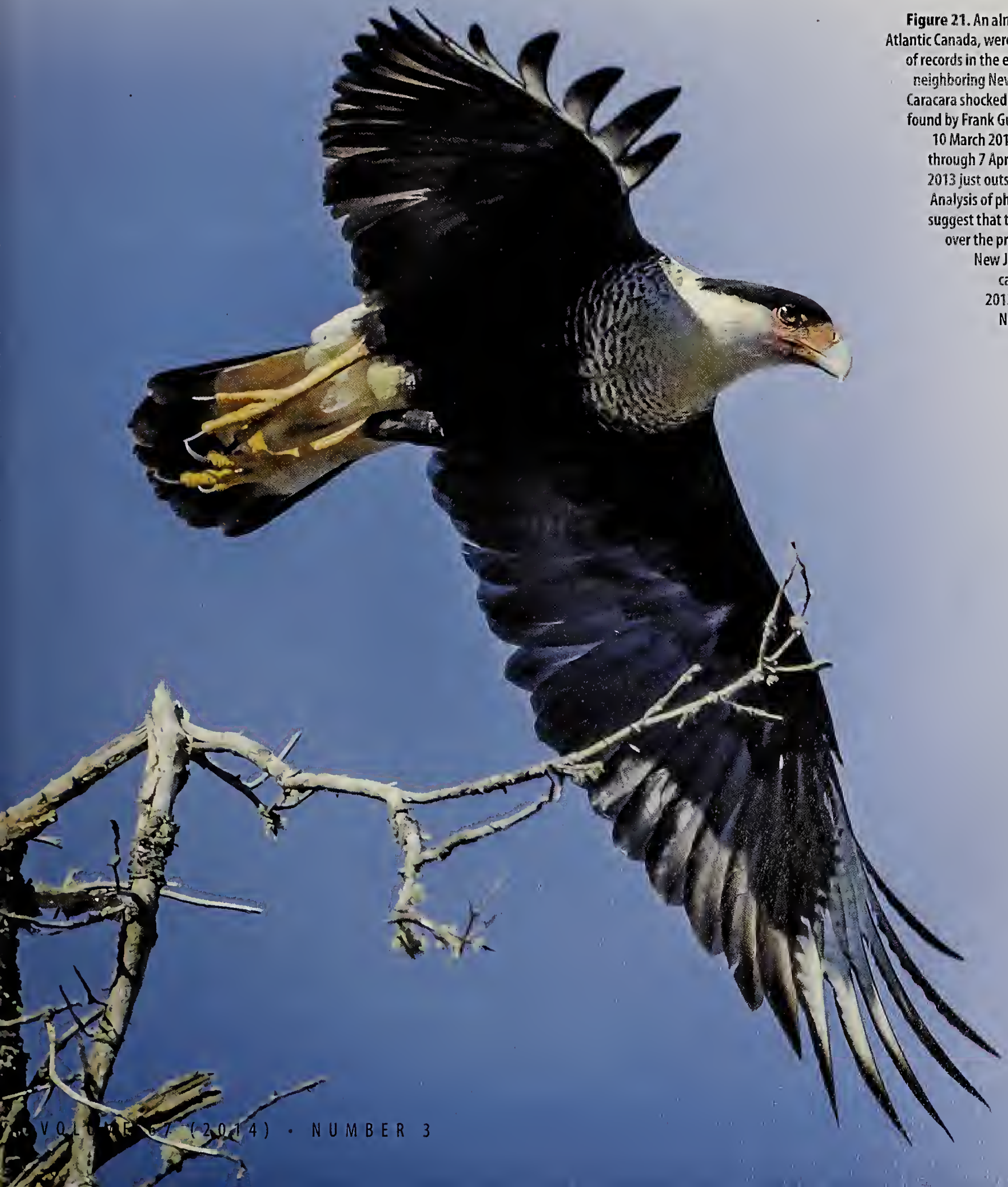
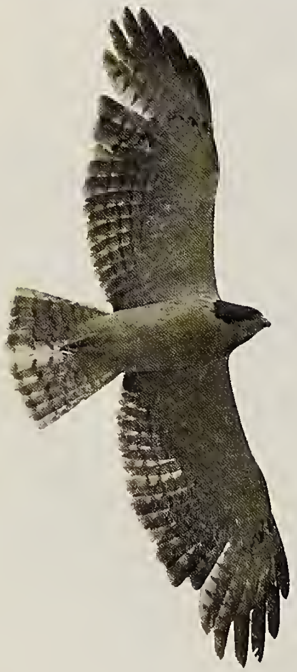


Figure 21. An almost unimaginable bird in Atlantic Canada, were it not for the recent rash of records in the eastern United States (and neighboring New Brunswick), this Crested Caracara shocked Nova Scotia birders when found by Frank Gummett at Lawrencetown 10 March 2013; it remained in the area through 7 April and was re-found 7 July 2013 just outside of Canso, Nova Scotia. Analysis of photographs and videotape suggest that this could be the bird seen over the previous winter in southern New Jersey. A possibly different caracara was located 4 May 2013 at Middle West Pubnico, Nova Scotia. *Photograph by Frank Gummett.*

(Figure 26). One could argue that all of these species are marginal members of the United States avifauna to begin with, but many other species found in similar habitats and numbers have been detected well north of the border area; species like Audubon's Oriole, White-tipped Dove, and Ringed Kingfisher have been recorded into the Texas Hill Country, and Violet-crowned Hummingbird has been found farther north in Arizona and exceptionally as a stray to Appalachian Virginia. Dietary issues could certainly play a role in the decline of the crow (which likely consumed toxic human refuse at landfills) and the kite (a snail specialist), but for the jay and nightjar, it's hard to know whether or how envirnomental changes or development were factors in their declines.

In the case of many tropical species, we have only general ideas what exactly drives contraction or expansion of range—why are Sinaloa Wrens, Nutting's Flycatchers, and Rufous-backed Thrushes turning up in the United States more frequently, while others like Gray-crowned Yellowthroat and even Groove-billed Ani (which has waned as a vagrant in the United States) appear to be losing ground? In Arizona, recent mega-fires surely have influenced the distribution of some species, while prolonged drought in Texas has massively reduced wetland and grassland habitats. We are missing, regrettably, robust distributional data on most species from northern Mexico. Pioneering birders and ornithologists are discovering anew the avian riches of these states, as our frontispiece image evidences, and in many cases, useful checklists are coming in to eBird, where we all can enjoy the fruits of their discoveries and perhaps take motivation to strike out into new terrain ourselves. Documenting changes in the avifaunas of Tamaulipas, Nuevo León, Coahuila, Chihuahua, Sonora, and Baja California would help us better understand what's happening with bird movements and populations north of the border.

Figure 22. **This light-morph Short-tailed Hawk, Georgia's first, drew birders from far and wide to Hinesville, Liberty County from 27 (here 28) April until 5 May 2013.** ***Photograph by Jerry Amerson.***

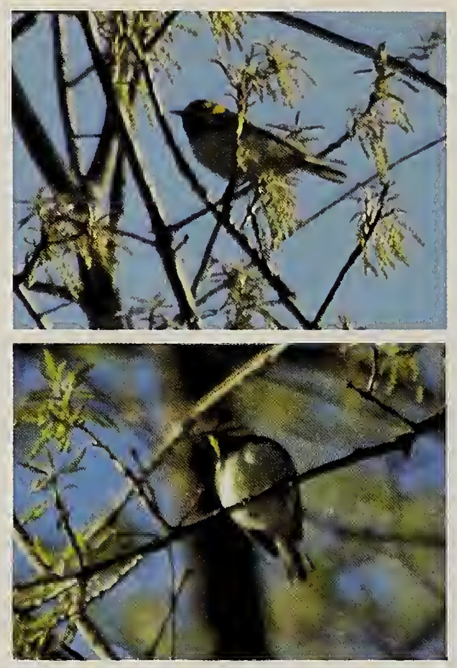


Reprise

On more than a few occasions, we have been incorrect in our assumptions, predictions, speculations, and conclusions in this essay. Like the tv meteorologists, however, we somehow manage to stay employed, despite our shortcomings. Some of these errors (such as a prediction that three states would add Common Black-Hawk by 2013; Brinkley 2008) are trifling; only Kansas has had a report, from 2011. In the previous essay, I wrote: "Dead and dying Razorbills are seldom found in North Carolina, even in big flight years." Even before that issue went to press, the birds were washing ashore in the Southeast (Figure 27) and along with them their small-fry cousins the Dovekies (Figure 28). I was trying to find a silver lining on the 2012-2013 flight, in which many dead and dying Razorbills were detected in Florida; but the statement was sadly incorrect. Seabirds experience periodic die-offs mostly when unable to find enough to eat; it remains to be seen what will happen in winter 2013-2014, but it seems likely that at least Razorbills are becoming more and more a fixed part of the avifauna of this area. We should report beached corpses to regional editors; and dead birds can be mentioned in the Comments of eBird checklists. We are still in the dark about what is driving the Razorbills southward and what it might mean for the species' population trend.

A closer look; and looking too closely?

When the image of a Sandwich Tern from California arrived (Figure 29), I gave it a second look, as had the regional editors. The bird



Figures 23, 24. **Representing one of very few documented records of Golden-cheeked Warbler outside Texas and Middle America, this adult male was an unexpected first for Missouri in St. Louis County 19-22 (here 20) April 2013. Incredibly, another singing male Golden-cheeked turned up in the Oklahoma's Wichita Mountains 6 May, seen again 11 May, but not thereafter.** ***Photographs by Joshua P. Uffman.***

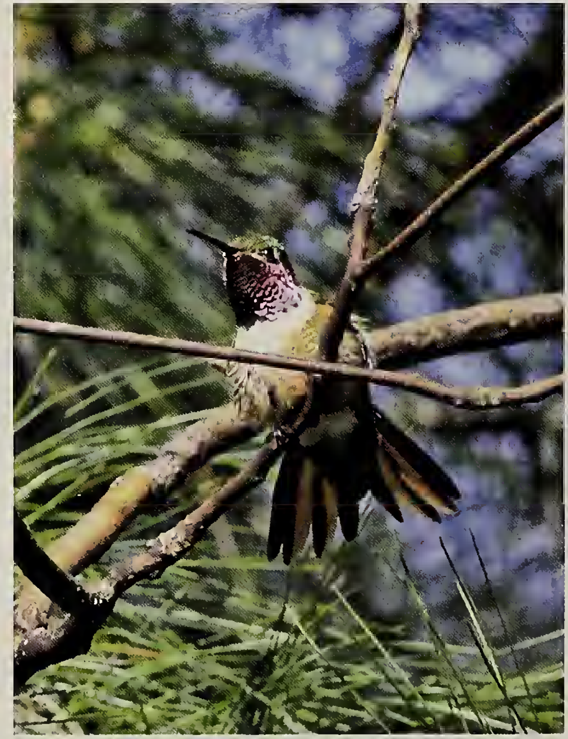


Figure 25. **This Bahama Woodstar attended hummingbird feeders at the home of Ruth Witmer in Denver, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania 20-24 (here 24) April 2013. Few vagrants to the East have been more unanticipated.** ***Photograph by Meredith Lombard.***

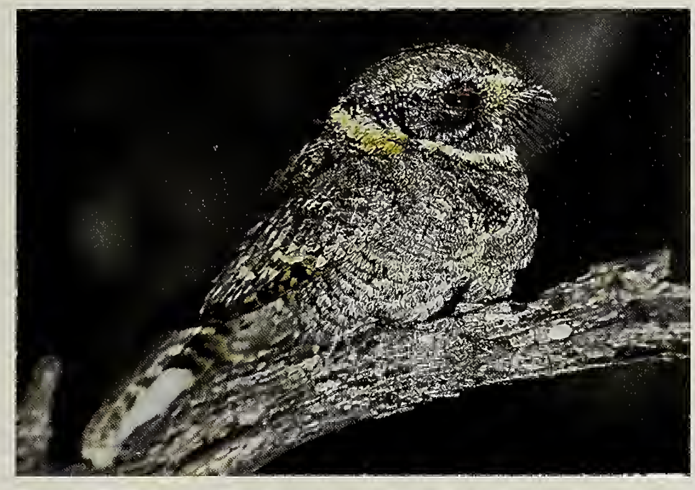


Figure 26. This Buff-collared Nightjar was discovered along Proctor Road near Madera Canyon by Justin Hopkins on 25 (here 31) May 2013. This Mexican species is likely a rare but regular summer visitor (and possible breeder) in southeastern Arizona, but recent reports have been few and far between. *Photograph by Chris West.*

seems a little "off" for that species, but only barely, in the distribution of yellow at the tip of the bill and probably also in the crest, which seems longer than in typical Sandwich. The last issue featured a major paper on "orange-billed terns"—so called because many of these orange-billed vagrants (some purported to be Elegant Terns) seemed, well, a little off for Elegant Tern. Gull—and terns—are hard, as are, it turns out, waterfowl and warblers: we feature more and more hybrids each year. Florida had multiple puzzling herons and warblers this spring; Québec had a handsome falcon that turned out to be a Gyrfalcon x Saker hybrid, escaped from a falconer. Iron-clad identifications, even in the age of DNA analysis, seem to be more and more elusive with some groups. We face difficulties sometimes in even reporting what we observe. We can hedge with words like "probable" or "possible" (though we can't use those for eBird yet!), or we can call a bird "interesting" and leave it at that.

Several times in this column and in the Editors' Notebook we have also visited the issues that confront, and often utterly confound, observers seeking to identify a bird to the level of subspecies. As with "apparent" hybrids, we have more and more reports in this century of birds that appear to fit at least some of the characters of a named subspecies. We are now in an era in which we find it possible to confirm at least some of our surmises about identification of vagrant subspecies through molecular testing (Baumann et al. 2013); but few of us have a good grasp of, or access to, this sort of methodology and technology. That leaves most of us, most of the time, in the position of qualifying our identifications of subspecies or of apparent hybrids.

The problem with this position is clear: our birding culture, and our ornithological culture, has trouble dealing with supposition and speculation, with the concept of "possible" records. This journal, which has one foot in each culture, is arguably one of the few places where supposition is encouraged—at least, we encourage writers of this essay to include educated speculation where it seems appropriate. In the regional reports, we are seeing more and more identification *without qualification* of subtle, variable subspecies, and this development is more difficult to deal with, as it represents a potential drift in the journal's standards. Under the banner of thinking-out-loud, we have presented papers on notoriously difficult species-groups, including Band-rumped Storm-Petrels, Red Crossbills, American Pipits, Brant, Cackling Geese, dark-rumped petrels, big brown skuas, orange-billed terns, and those slippery subspecies of Red-tailed Hawk. Identification is not just vexing in these cases; species (and subspecies) limits are themselves problematic. And so these papers are interlarded with qualifying language; each such inquiry presents itself as preliminary rather than authoritative, a tentative attempt to present new data and to sum up what we think we know at this stage.

In attempting to refine our understanding and pursue pioneering insights into the variation in North America birds, we now up against, and sometimes beyond, "field identification" itself. We should, as thinking people, attempt to push the envelope and boundaries; birders are directly responsible for the recognition (or revival) of many species of birds in recent decades. However, there are times when our suppositions take on the appearance of firm identifications, when the qualifying language drops away, and our confidence appears to have outstripped our competence, outpaced what is demonstrable and verifiable. Inquiry becomes insistence.

We have pointed to this dynamic in past essays. Anyone who has not had the pleasure of seeing the tension between identification and divination in the birding community need only read past (or present!) exchanges on the identification of large gulls, where the tension can be spectacular. Naturally, there is much intelligence, good will, and experience evident in these exchanges; but there are countless instances of identification by fiat as well, and

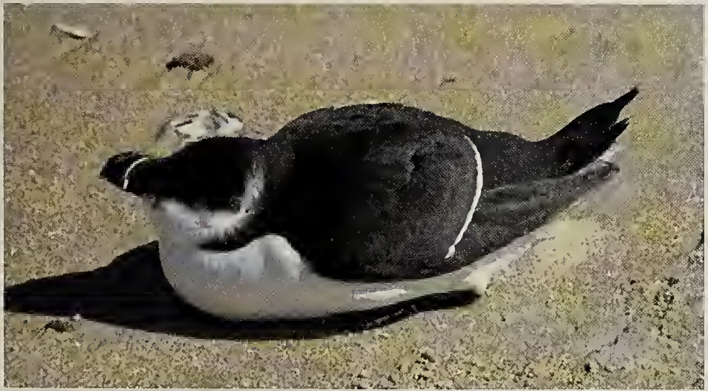


Figure 27. After the heavy flight of Razorbills in December 2012 and January 2013, ailing Razorbills began washing up on beaches from the Carolinas to Alabama later in winter. This bird at North Topsail Beach, North Carolina 5 March 2013 was among many birds taken into rehabilitation. *Photograph by David Harsh.*

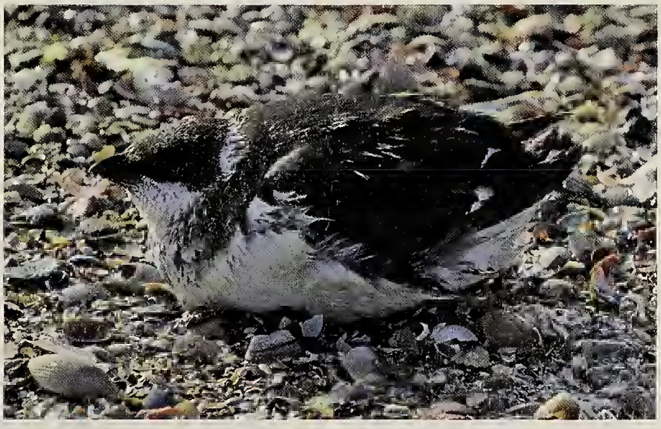


Figure 28. Among many moribund Dovekies found on beaches in late winter and early spring of 2013, this bird on Tybee Island 7 April made one of few recent Georgia records. *Photograph by Shannon Fair.*

a settled identification is elusive in many instances, even among people rightly acknowledged as authorities. Phenotype generates much conjecture but often little consensus.

Our intention, if not always our practice, has been to maintain qualifying language (normally the word "apparent," but also "possibly," "potentially," "likely") to mark what we as editors feel are situations at the outer limits of field identification. Surely, other teams of editors would feel comfortable with more conservative or less conservative positions in particular cases. In recent years, eBird has expanded contributors' ability to include birds identified to the level of subspecies—but has also provided thousands of "slashes and spuhs" as potential entries, so that contributors have the ability to record birds whose identification does not fit neatly into a single box, for whatever reason.We strongly encourage use of these "softer" categories, especially for subspecies, whose very existence in many cases can be contestable, often clouded by extensive intergradation, and for which identification criteria have not been fully determined.

Like eBird, the new *Rare Birds of North America* (Howell et al. 2014) does not banish uncertainties about identification, provenance, or even taxonomy. As a result, many of the records that become apocryphal or invisible as a result of committee decisions can be found in the book, and we find ourselves as readers considering the difficulties that have, in the past, been the province of editors and committee members. The democratic dynamic with eBird is very much the same: we are invited to the table, often in the homepage essays, to help figure out "what's going on" with a species or group of birds. The maturation of our community in this regard is marvelous, but with increased participation comes increasing responsibility for the production of accurate, reliable, sober data. We are committed to this path, even as we pursue articles that shows us the limitations of our current field craft.

The book we're still missing in North America, and which will probably never be written, deals not with the continentally rare birds but with the rare birds that we as individual birders are far more likely to find in our local patches—the Lark Bunting or Worm-eating Warbler or Rock Wren far out of range, for instance. The vagrancy of these North American breeding birds can be more difficult to conceptualize than the long-distance flights of Fork-tailed Flycatchers or Dark-sided Flycatchers. We will continue to make it our job to muddle through records of these homegrown vagrants, spinning out theories on how-they-got-there and when-we-should-look-for-them, all the while acknowledging that our thinking about these birds is sometimes all over the map.

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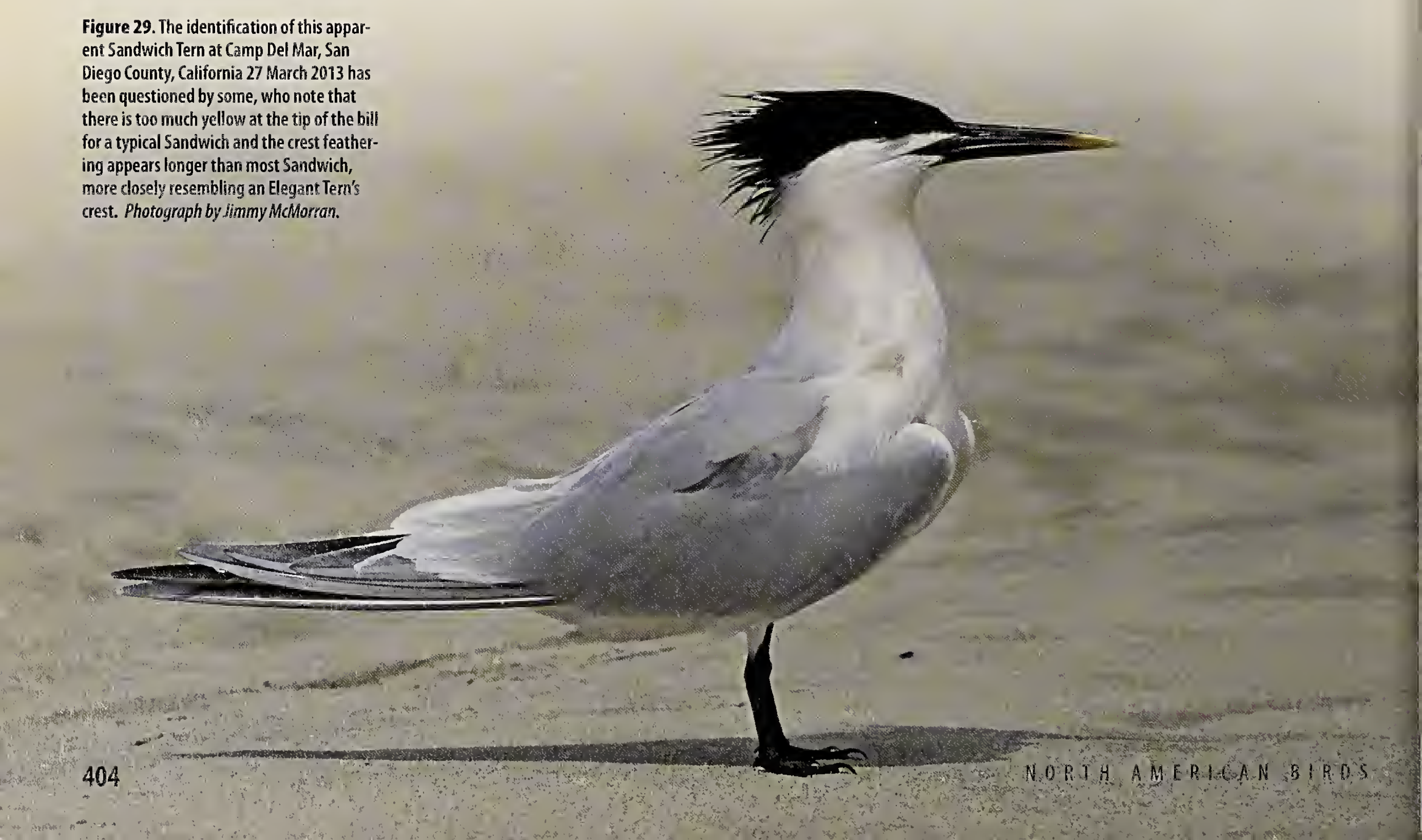

Figure 29. The identification of this apparent Sandwich Tern at Camp Del Mar, San Diego County, California 27 March 2013 has been questioned by some, who note that there is too much yellow at the tip of the bill for a typical Sandwich and the crest feathering appears longer than most Sandwich, more closely resembling an Elegant Tern's crest. *Photograph by Jimmy McMorran.*

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BIRDING JOURNAL

The Bird of My Life: Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*)

VICTOR EMANUEL, VENT • 2525 WALLINGWOOD DRIVE, #1003 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78746

It was a phone call I will never forget.

On the evening of March 22, 1959, Ben Feltner called to tell me that he and Dudley Deaver had seen a bird on West Galveston Island that they had identified as an Eskimo Curlew! This was stunning news. I had read in bird books about this small curlew. Often the account ended with the phrase "probably extinct." Ben had moved to Houston from England nine years earlier. He was a few years older than I was. We became friends and often birded together. I knew he was a careful and skilled observer. His friend Dudley was not a birder.

Ben did not have a car. As a result, his birding was mostly confined to the Galena Park area, just east of Houston in the upper part of Galveston Bay where he lived. On that fateful day, Dudley and Ben had driven to Galveston in Dudley's car. One of the birds Ben was hoping to see was a Whimbrel. On West Galveston, they located Ben's lifer Whimbrel in a wetland. Then they drove farther out the island. In those days, West Galveston had few housing developments. It was coastal prairie grazed by cattle—perfect habitat for American Golden-Plovers. Later in the day, Ben and Dudley stopped to look at a flock of golden-plovers that were feeding in a short grass field. Here, with the golden-plovers, they spotted a small curlew that resembled the Whimbrel they had seen earlier, but it was buffier, smaller, and had a less decurved bill. Based on these field marks, they concluded it was an Eskimo Curlew!

There are decisions you make in your life that, when you look back on them, you cannot understand why you made them. In this case, it was my decision *not* to go look for the bird Ben and Dudley had seen. I knew that Ben was a skilled, careful observer, so I did not doubt his identification, or, at least, looking back over 50 years later, I do not think I doubted it. I was a freshman at Rice University. I had classes to attend. Maybe that is why I didn't go to Galveston, even though it is only an hour south of Houston.

I did call one of my main birding mentors, Armand Yramategui. Armand went to Galveston and did not find Ben's bird. I thought it must have moved on and was now somewhere in the Great Plains, en route to the tundra of northwestern Canada.

On April 5, I went to Galveston with Ben, Ronald Fowler, and a few other friends from the local Ornithology Group. We were not looking for the Eskimo Curlew that Ben and Dudley had seen two weeks earlier, but just going birding. I was eager to see the spot where they had observed the curlew. We had gone only a few miles west of the city when we saw a field that was teeming with shorebirds; this was about six miles from the field where Ben and Dudley had seen the bird. I pulled over to the side of the road so we could scan the field and see what species were there. I wish I could remember all the birds that were in that field; among the many hundreds of shorebirds were American Golden-Plovers, Black-bellied Plovers, Killdeer, Whimbrels, Long-billed Curlews, Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Pectoral Sandpipers (Williams 1959). This field was also filled with dairy cattle. Thanks to their droppings, it was obviously rich in invertebrate life, which provided an abundance of food for these birds.

When I put up my binoculars, I immediately saw a small buffy curlew! I told my friends we needed to get out of the car and put up our scopes. Looking at this small curlew through our scopes we all agreed that it looked very different from the nearby Whimbrels. When we would study it and then rotate the scope 15 degrees to look at a Whimbrel, we became very excited. We thought that maybe this was the Eskimo Curlew that Ben and Dudley had seen two weeks earlier.

Another of my mentors, Edgar Kincaid, who would later edit Harry Oberholser's massive tome *The Bird Life of Texas* (1974), had instilled in me the need to see every possible field mark when identifying a rare bird. Our Peterson guide emphasized that in contrast to Whimbrels' gray legs, Eskimo Curlews had greenish legs. It also described the call of Eskimo Curlew. Because we could not see the leg color from where we were standing, we decided to go through the fence and walk out into the field. Even though I knew it was wrong to do so, we climbed through the fence and trespassed—in Texas, a cardinal sin for which one might be arrested or shot. In our eagerness to nail down this sighting, we violated this rule.

Once we got closer to the bird, we could see that it had grayish-blue legs just like a Whimbrel. Our approach caused some of the birds to fly. Ben said he heard the bird call and that it sounded something like a Whimbrel.

I thought I heard a gun go off. We beat a hasty retreat to our car and drove away from "the bird of my life."

We spent the rest of the day birding Galveston, but I couldn't get that small curlew out of my mind. "What was it?" I thought. "It couldn't have been a Whimbrel. It looked too different." As we drove back to Houston in the dark I thought, "You have blown it. You drove away from the rarest bird you will ever see." I was kicking myself.

The next day, in the Rice University library, I read the account of Eskimo Curlew in *Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States* by Edward Howe Forbush (1925). To my amazement, Forbush described the leg color of the Eskimo Curlew

An Eskimo Curlew observes birders at the northeastern corner of the cattle pasture at the junction of 7 Mile Road and Stewart Road, Galveston Island, Texas in early April 1962; the author found a curlew here on 5 April 1959. *Photograph by Donald R. Bleitz.*

as bluish gray! That convinced me that the bird we had seen was, in fact, an Eskimo Curlew.

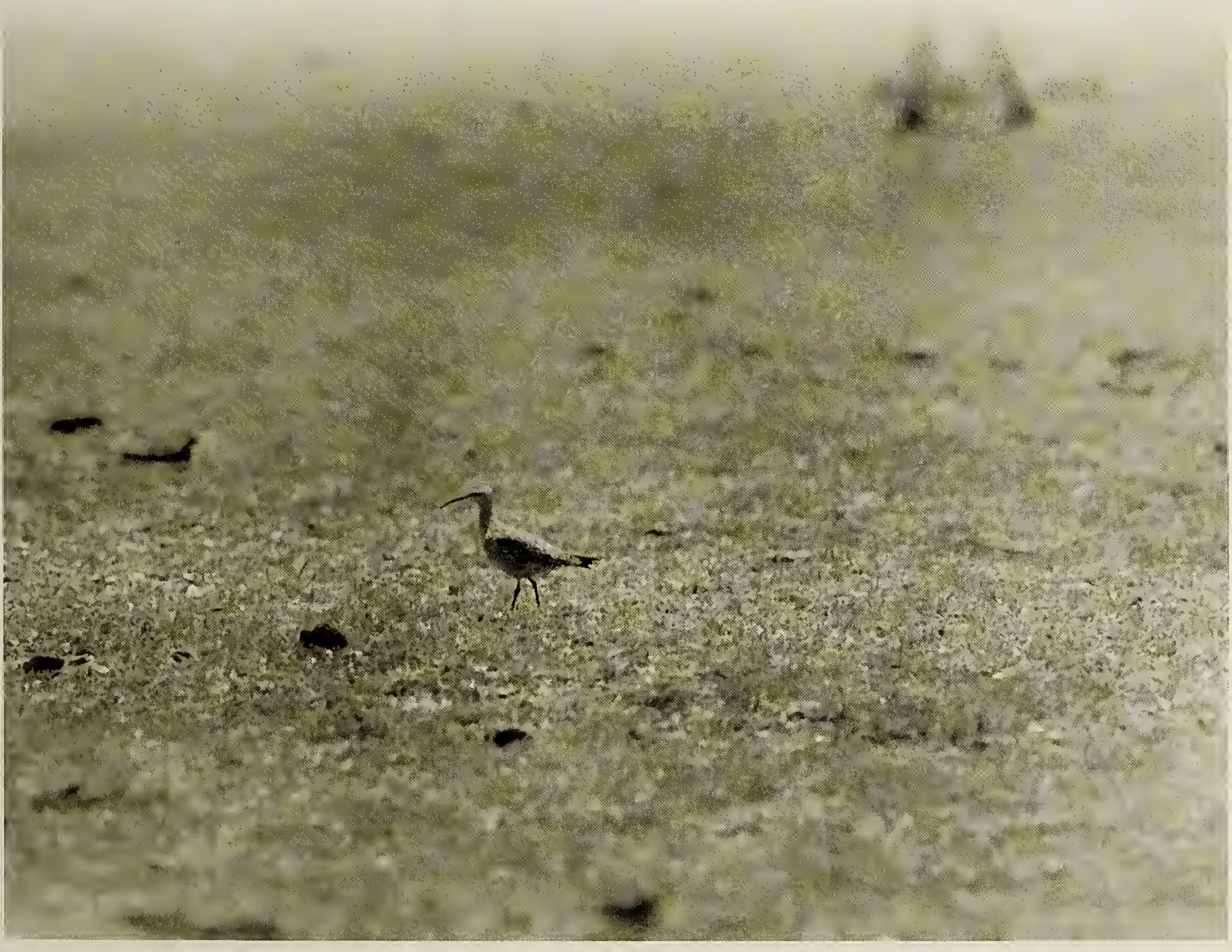
Two days later, April 8, I decided that I needed to return to Galveston to spend more time studying the small curlew we had seen. I drove there alone, wondering all the way whether the bird would still be there. When I arrived at the field, to my great relief, it was still present. This time I approached the dairy farmer and asked for permission to go into his field. He readily granted permission. Later he told me that as a boy in the late 1800s, he saw flocks of small curlews regularly in these fields, which he hunted.

I walked slowly out into the field, taking care not to scare away the birds, especially the small curlew. It was feeding in the northeastern corner of the field. I got closer and closer. At one point, I had in the field of the scope a Whimbrel, a Long-billed Curlew, and the small curlew! How I wish I had photographed that unforgettable scene—one that perhaps no birder or scientist had ever seen or will ever see again.

After spending two hours observing the small curlew, I was convinced beyond the shadow of a doubt that it was an Eskimo Curlew. As I drove back to Houston, I thought, "No one may ever accept this observation, but I know I have seen an Eskimo Curlew!"

In that era, few birders took photographs of birds, and it did not occur to me to try to find someone who would try to obtain photographs. What did occur to me was to try to show the bird to George Williams. George taught English at Rice University. One of his students was Larry McMurtry, who would later write *Lonesome Dove*. George had started a newsletter in the 1940s called *The Gulf Coast Migrant*. For a number of years, he and George Lowery wrote sharply worded articles in the *Auk* debating the question of circum-Gulf vs. trans-Gulf migration. Williams defended the position that most migrants travel around the Gulf, while Lowery supported the idea that most birds migrate over the Gulf. I thought that if I could show the curlew to George Williams, the record might be accepted.

On April 10, George and I drove to Galveston. The bird I thought was an Eski-



mo Curlew was still in the field where I had spent over two hours observing it. George agreed with my conclusion that it was probably an Eskimo Curlew but felt we could not conclusively rule out the possibility that it was the first North American record of a Little Curlew, an Asian species that in the 1950s was known as Least Curlew, Pygmy Curlew, or Little Whimbrel (see Williams 1959). At that time, some ornithologists listed Little Curlew as a subspecies of Eskimo Curlew (e.g., Dement'ev et al. 1966). Edgar Kincaid had a book on Japanese birds that contained a description of Little Curlew. The book was in Japanese. A Japanese woman that Edgar knew translated the Little Curlew account. It mentioned two distinguishing features:

1 • The scales on both sides of the tarsi in Little Curlew are arranged in horizontal plates, whereas in Eskimo Curlew, the scales on the posterior side of the tarsi are hexagonal in shape, resulting in a pattern that resembles a fishing net. (Obviously, we could not observe this pattern in the field, even with scopes.)
2 • Eskimo Curlew has reddish-cinnamon axillars, while the axillars of Little Curlew are pinkish buff. Our bird had reddish-cinnamon axillars.

Over the next few weeks, an Eskimo Curlew continued to be observed either in the field where I had first seen it on April 5 or the field where Ben and Dudley had discovered it on March 22. When Ben saw the bird at the 7 Mile Road/Stewart Road pasture, he commented that it looked different from the bird he and Dudley had found two weeks earlier, which had a shorter, straighter bill than the bird we found in April. It seems very likely that two individuals were present in 1959, though they were neither photographed and nor seen at the same time.

Remarkably, only about two-dozen birders made the journey to Galveston to see Eskimo Curlew. In the 1950s, there was no hotline alerting birders to rare bird sightings. Most of the observers that saw the Eskimo Curlew lived in Houston, but a few birders came from Austin, including my friends Edgar Kincaid, Frank Oatman, Rose Ann Rowlett, and John Rowlett. The only out-of-state birder that I heard about coming was Elisha Atkins of New Haven, Connecticut. I did not meet Elisha at that time, but years later he and his wife Libby came on some of the tours I led. We became close friends. He told me that he was one of the last people to observe a Heath Hen (*Tympanuchus c. cupido*) on Martha's Vineyard! Happily, my friend and mentor Armand Yramategui did see the curlew—in fact, he was the last to see the Eskimo Curlew on Galveston in 1959, on April 26.

My most memorable observation of the curlew came on April 10. I went to Galveston with my friend, Ernest P. (Buck) Edwards, who had recently moved to Houston to become Assistant Curator of the Museum of Natural Science. I was hoping to show him the Eskimo Curlew. We went first to the field at 7 Mile Road and Stewart Road where I had seen it on April 5, but it was not there. Then we drove farther out the island to the field where Ben and Dudley had first found an Eskimo Curlew on March 22. Again we had no luck finding it.

We started to head back to Houston. I suggested to Buck that we check the 7 Mile Road field. Again we had no luck. We were just about to head home when we spotted a flock of ten golden-plovers flying along the dune line toward us. They were coming from the western end of the island. Even when they were distant I could see that there was a larger bird with them—a curlew. I knew it was likely to be the Eskimo Curlew, as the species was known to migrate with golden-plovers. They came closer and closer. Then they put down in the field in front of us. The curlew was, in fact, an Eskimo Curlew. Buck and I had seen a sight from the history of these two species—an Eskimo Curlew and a flock of golden-plovers flying together. No one had seen such a sight for over 50 years. I doubt anyone will ever see that sight again.

As it turned out, at least one Eskimo Curlew was reported on Galveston Island each spring until 1964, when two Eskimo Curlews were seen on Galveston Island. They were not together but were observed at the same time in fields that were 5-10 miles apart. In April 1962, Don Bleitz came to Galveston from Los Angeles and obtained the only photographs ever taken of the species (Bleitz 1962; Frontispiece). Careful analysis of those photographs confirms that at least two different Eskimo Curlews were photographed, among potentially four different birds present (Collinson 2011).

Despite searches later in the 1960s and over the decades that followed, no other Eskimo Curlews have been reliably reported from Galveston Island and none photographed since 1962. In succeeding years, there have been sight reports from various locations in the United States and Canada, but none of these birds were documented by photograph or specimen. In fact, the only other Eskimo Curlew documented in the 1960s was a lone bird shot by a hunter on Barbados on September 4, 1963.

As I remember those unforgettable days, I think back on where I was in life, a freshman at Rice University, uncertain what I wanted to do in life—a life that in hindsight has turned out to be rich and amazing. I can close my eyes and see, dimly, that small curlew walking in a short grass field with golden-plovers and Upland Sandpipers nearby. Every so often, it would probe with its beak into a clump of bunch grass and then walk on. What a wonderful experience that was. Since that day, I have seen over 6000 species of birds, including many amazing ones, but that small curlew will always be "the bird of my life."

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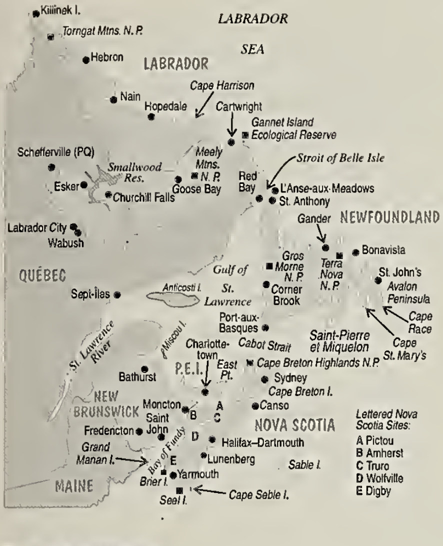
Atlantic Provinces & St. Pierre et Miquelon


Killinek I.
LABRADOR SEA
Torngat Mtns. N.P.
Hebron
LABRADOR
Nain
Cape Harrison
Hopedale
Cartwright
Gannet Island Ecological Reserve
Schefferville (PQ)
Meely Mtns. N.P.
Smallwood Res.
Strait of Belle Isle
Esker
Churchill Falls
Goose Bay
Red Bay
L'Anse-aux-Meadows
St. Anthony
Labrador City
Wabush
Gander
NEWFOUNDLAND
Bonavista
Gros Morne N.P.
Terra Nova N.P.
QUÉBEC
Gulf of St. Lawrence
St. John's
Avalon Peninsula
Sept-Îles
Anticosti I.
Corner Brook
Cape Race
Port-aux-Basques
St. Lawrence River
Miscou I.
Saint-Pierre et Miquelon
Cape St. Mary's
Charlotte-town
Cabot Strait
Cape Breton Highlands N.P.
Bathurst
P.E.I.
East Pt.
Sydney
Cape Breton I.
NEW BRUNSWICK
Moncton
Saint John
Canso
Fredericton
NOVA SCOTIA
Halifax–Dartmouth
Lettered Nova Scotia Sites:
A Pictou
B Amherst
C Truro
D Wolfville
E Digby
Grand Manan I.
Bay of Fundy
Lunenberg
Sable I.
MAINE
Brier I.
Yarmouth
Seal I.
Cape Sable I.

David Seeler

Spring began with temperatures slightly warmer than normal. Earlier migrants such as waterfowl were not impeded in their progress and quickly made their way through the Region either early or on time. Weather conditions continued slightly warmer than normal through March but with above-normal precipitation; the rain did not appear to impede migration in most areas. As April progressed, temperatures remained above seasonal norms, and most areas save New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island dealt with stormy, wet conditions. For most of the Region, the weather settled down in early May, but stormy weather with strong winds hit the northern half of the Region in mid-May. The timing of these fronts coincided with the migration of many passerine species and ultimately delayed their migration up to a week or more. By month's end, observers across the Region commented that counts of many species were low. Nova Scotia and St. Pierre et Miquelon each recorded a new species.

Abbreviations: C.S.I. (Cape Sable Island, NS); G.M.I. (Grand Manan Island, NB); H.R.M. (Halifax Regional Municipality, NS).

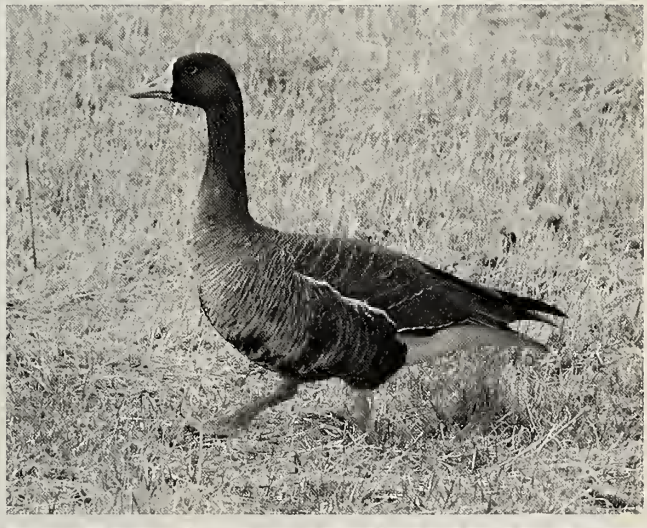
WATERFOWL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

The Pink-footed Goose that arrived at St. John's in Dec remained until late Apr (Lisa de Leon, m.ob.); Newfoundland has seven previous records of the species. Two Greater White-fronted Geese lingered at Black Harbour, Twillingate, NL early through mid-Apr (*fide* Paul Linegar). Another located 16 Apr at Biscay Bay, Avalon Peninsula, NL (ph. Cliff Doran, m.ob.) remained throughout the month. All of these Greater White-fronteds were identified as subspecies *flavirostris* (*fide* Bruce Mactavish). With fewer than 10 confirmed records for New Brunswick, a Greater White-fronted was notable at Sheffield 19 Apr (Don Gibson). A Snow Goose on the Isthmus of Miquelon 22 May (Roger Etcheberry) made the only report of the season; most reports there are from the autumn. Tundra Swan is uncommon in New Brunswick; one found 17 May in a Salisbury sewage lagoon (ph. David Miller, Gilbert Bouchard) was unexpected. In the same province, 3 were reported at Mactaquac Park, Mactaquac 28 May (*fide* Nick Hawkins); probably the same birds were reported at Lake George the next day (Don Gibson). An imm. Tundra Swan was at Portugal Cove South, NL 27-28 May (Gord Hartery; ph. David Shepherd) and later (m.ob.).

Eurasian Wigeon was widely reported. Nova Scotia had at least 10 during the season, and at least 24 wintered at St. John's, with a few still present 24 Apr (Bruce Mactavish). Two were reported from St. Pierre 9 Mar–7 Apr, with another seen 23 Apr–11 May (Patrick Boez). Uncommon on Prince Edward Island, 4 Eurasian Wigeons (including one female) were at Durant Creek, *Queens* 2 Apr (Geoff Wood). A rare spring migrant in New Brunswick, a male Eurasian was near St. John, NB 21 Apr and 26 May (Gilbert Bouchard). Uncommon in spring, a pair of Blue-winged Teal was observed in St. Pierre 28 Apr (Patrick Boez), where the species has nested in the past. A Eurasian Teal found in St. Pierre lingered 24 Mar–1 Apr (Patrick Boez). A male Tufted Duck was at Lyons Brook, Pictou, NS 18 Apr (Ken McKenna). Newfoundland birders reported 50 Tufteds wintering around St. John's, at least through 24 Apr (*fide* Bruce Mactavish). A female King Eider on G.M.I. off of the White Head Ferry was a rare find 4 Apr (Roger Burrows). The wintering population of Long-tailed Ducks appears to be dwindling around St. Pierre, with few reports of the species received there this year (*fide* Roger Etcheberry); one male in a freshwater marsh on the Isthmus 13 Apr and a female at Mirande Lake 30 Apr (Roger Etcheberry) were notable. An unseasonable pair of Buffleheads was found 25 May at Renews Beach, Avalon Peninsula, NL (Bruce Mactavish). Four rare Ruddy Ducks were reported in New Brunswick: a male at Tracadie-Shelia, *Gloucester* 12 May (Roger Dumaresq); a pair at the Tantramar Wetland Centre, Sackville 22 May (Nev Garrity); and a male at a sewage lagoon, Hampton 30 May (Richard Blacquiere).

A Pied-billed Grebe lingered in the St. Pierre harbor 30 Mar–8 Apr (Patrick Boez, Patrick Hacala). Two Northern Fulmars were reported to be prospecting Colombier Island off St. Pierre 29 May (Joël Detcheverry); the species has not been confirmed as a breeder there. Never before reported in the spring in Prince Edward Island, and rarely reported at other times, a Leach's Storm-Petrel was clearly in trouble when blown in from the Gulf of St. Lawrence inland to Campbell's Cove, *Kings* 18 May during a period of strong northerly winds (Dwaine Oakley).

A heron found at Little Heart's Ease, Trinity Bay, NL 9 Mar (Gerald Hann) and possibly present earlier was determined to be a **Gray Heron** (ph. Bruce Mactavish, Ken Knowles, John Wells, m.ob.), the third for Newfoundland; it was last reported 28 May (Sharon Oram). Uncommon in New Brunswick, 2 Great Egrets were reported during the season, one at Waterville, *Carleton* 12 Apr (Grant Milroy), the other at the flooded Carman Creek G.C., Fredericton 30 May (Don Gibson). A Little Egret was at Eastern Passage, H.R.M. 21-27 Apr (Mike King, m.ob.); Nova Scotia has 15 previous records of the species. Two Little Egrets at Fairhaven, Placentia Bay, Avalon Peninsula 12 May (ph. Pierre Ryan; Paul Linegar, m.ob.) provided the ninth record of that species for Newfoundland. A


This Greater White-fronted Goose was present 16-29 (here 17) April 2013 at Biscay Bay, Avalon Peninsula, Newfoundland. The bill color, close to that of the orange legs and feet, is typical of the Greenland subspecies *flavirostris*—the only subspecies of Greater White-fronted documented in Newfoundland and Labrador thus far. *Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.*

Two Little Egrets in breeding plumage were present at Fair Haven, Placentia Bay, Newfoundland 12-23 (here 20) May 2013. *Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.*

Snowy Egret at Chance Harbour, *Saint John*, NB 24 Apr (Bev Schneider) was followed by another on White Head Island, *Charlotte*, NB 14 May (Jim Wilson et al.). A frequent visitor to Nova Scotia in spring, a Little Blue Heron was located 8 Apr at Cow Bay, H.R.M. (Dominic Cormier) and remained there through 12 Apr. Considered a rare annual migrant in New Brunswick, a Little Blue was discovered at Waterside Marsh, *Albert* 22 Apr (Stuart Tingley) and remained until 24 Apr (Joanne Savage, Merv Cormier). Little Blue Heron is considered a rare vagrant in Newfoundland and has been relatively scarce in recent years. Elizabeth MacDonald found and photographed one at Pointe Verde 25 Apr. A Cattle Egret was located 21 May at Walden, *Lunenburg* (ph. Mandy Eisenhauer); the species is recorded annually in Nova Scotia. At least 8 Glossy Ibis were reported in New Brunswick during spring (Gilles Belliveau, Don Gibson, Joanne Savage, Todd Watts).

An imm. Golden Eagle was a rare find at Shubenacadie, NS 24 Mar (Hans Toom). Annually reported in New Brunswick, a Golden Eagle was at Cookville 19 Apr (Pamela Novak). A Common Gallinule made an exciting find at St. George Marsh, *Charlotte*, NB 16 May (Nick Hawkins). Two American Coots overwintered in St. Pierre, last observed in late Mar (Patrick Boez, Patrick Hacala). Sandhill Crane is being reported more frequently within the Region from spring through fall. Singles were at Falmouth, *Hants*, NS 30 Apr (Ryan Harvey) and at West Pubnico, *Yarmouth*, NS 29 May (Coral d'Entremont). A pair of Sandhill Cranes was discovered at Rogersville, *Northumberland*, NB 10 May (Camilla Chiasson).

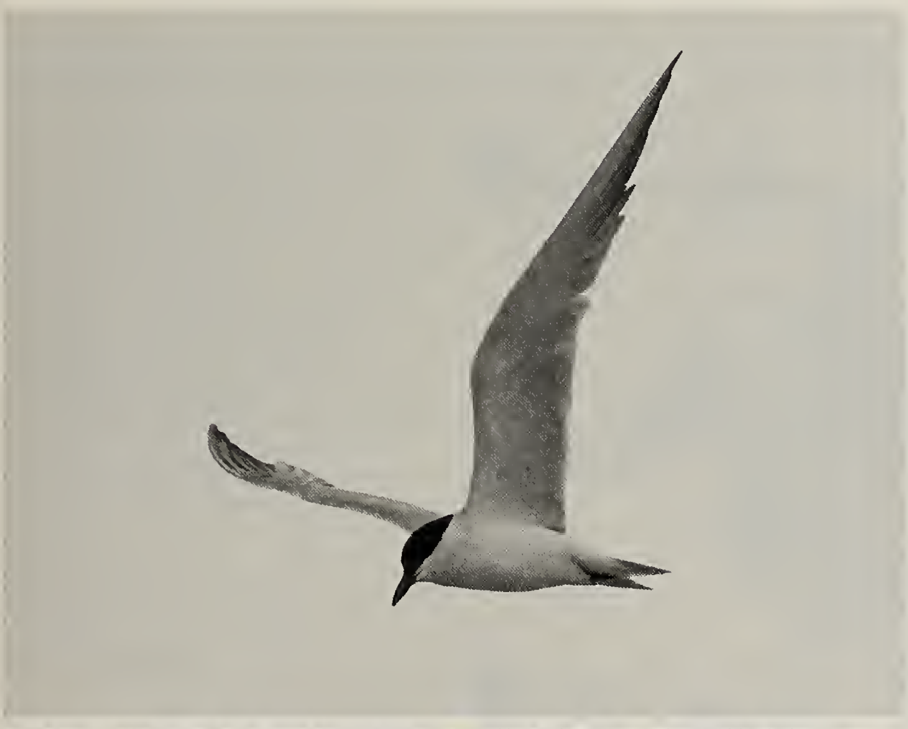
An American Golden-Plover provided Newfoundland with its fourth spring record at Portugal Cove South 17 Apr (ph. Bruce Mactavish, Ken Knowles, Jared Clarke). Three vocal Piping Plovers located 9 Apr at Waterside Beach, *Albert*, New Brunswick were considered quite early (Stuart Tingley). A Killdeer was at Grand Barachois, Miquelon 8 May (Jacky & Christine Hébert); the species is very uncommon in the French islands. A rare Western Willet on Brier Island 11 May (ph. Ian McLaren, Eric Mills) was perhaps the second record of the subspecies in spring for Nova Scotia. A Whimbrel of the North American subspecies *hudsonicus* was at Long Beach located 20 May (Tony Power); this would be Newfoundland's second spring record of the subspecies. A Eurasian Whimbrel was found on St. Pierre 8 May (Patrick Boez); another was at Cape Spear, Avalon Peninsula, NL 14 May (Terry James). A Ruddy Turnstone at Langlade, Miquelon 22 Mar had most likely overwintered (ph. Philippe Lahiton). Twenty Red Knots were found at Grand Barachois, Miquelon 30 Mar (Roger Etcheberry) were either very early or had overwintered. Also early, a Red Knot was located at Machias Seal Island, NB 16 Apr (Ralph Eldridge). Four Wilson's Phalaropes at the Hawk, C.S.I. 4 May (Cindy & Murray Newell) provided Nova Scotia with its earliest spring record of the species.

GULLS THROUGH LONGSPURS

An imm. Laughing Gull was found on St. Pierre 27 May (Joël Detcheverry, Laurent Jackman). One or possibly 2 Mew Gulls that wintered in Halifax Harbour, H.R.M., NS lingered until the end of Mar (*fide* Eric Mills). A lone second-cycle Thayer's Gull discovered at Tuft's Cove, Dartmouth, H.R.M., NS 11 Mar was well documented (Bernarde Burke). A Least Tern was reported on C.S.I. 4-6 May (Johnny Nickerson, Clyde Stoddard, Cindy & Murray Newell), though documentation has not yet been received. Also a rare visitor to Nova Scotia, a **Gull-billed Tern** was found at Daniel's Head, C.S.I. 6 May (ph. Alix d'Entremont) and re-located there 13 May (Johnny Nickerson). Caspian Tern is considered a spring rarity at St. Pierre, but 4 were reported this season there in May (Patrick Hacala, Laurent Jackman, Joël Detcheverry). A Sandwich Tern was reported at C.S.I. 4 & 6 May (Johnny Nickerson, Clyde Stoddard, Cindy & Murray Newell); details have not yet been received. Not often reported on land in spring, a Long-tailed Jaeger was near the St. Pierre airport 26 Apr (Patrick Boez). Three Long-tailed Jaegers were observed from land 25 May at Cape Spear, Avalon Peninsula, NL (Bruce Mactavish, David Shepherd).

A White-winged Dove was an excellent find on C.S.I. 31 May (ph. Ron d'Entremont,

A well-documented Little Egret 21-27 (here 26) April 2013 at Eastern Passage, Nova Scotia provided the province with its sixteenth record of the species. *Photograph by Richard Stern.*



Exceedingly rare in Nova Scotia, this Gull-billed Tern appeared on Cape Sable Island 6 May 2013. *Photograph by Alix d'Entremont.*

Johnny Nickerson); another was on St. Pierre 29-31 May (Patrick Boez, Patrick Hacala), the eighth record there. Only 2 Mourning Doves were noted at St. Pierre over the period (*fide* Roger Etcheberry). In Prince Edward Island, a late Snowy Owl was found at Little Tignish Shore, *Prince* 15 May (ph. Judy Handrahan). A Red-headed Woodpecker was a rare find in *Yarmouth*, NS 20 Apr (Murray Newell).

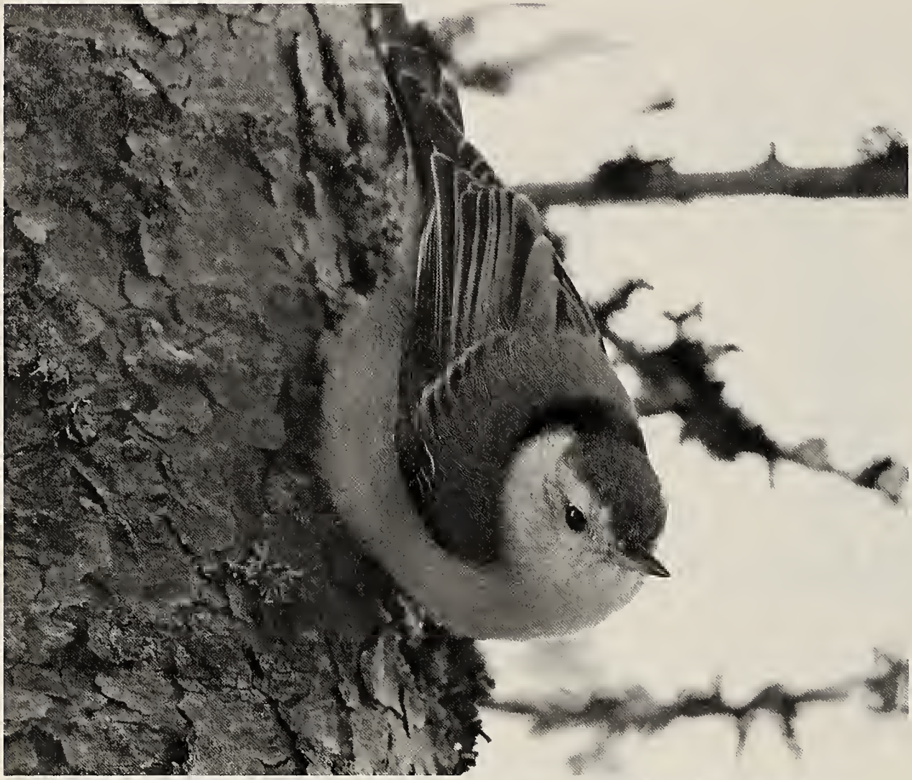
A first for the Region and for Nova Scotia, a **Crested Caracara** at Lawrencetown, H.R.M. 30 Mar (ph. Frank Gummett, m.ob.) lingered only for a short time and was last observed 7 Apr. Photographs indicated that it was likely one of the Crested Caracaras that had been previously recorded near Cape May, NJ (*fide* Ian McLaren). Amazingly, a second **Crested Caracara** was located 4 May at Middle West Pubnico, *Yarmouth*, NS (ph. Alix d'Entremont) and was photographed as it departed. Comparison of photographs indicates that it was probably a different bird, thus potentially providing Nova Scotia with its second record of the species. A white-morph Gyrfalcon at Avonport, *King's*, NS 16 Mar was a fine find (James Simpson).

Barely annual in Newfoundland, an Eastern Phoebe was observed eating worms off the road in the Codroy Valley (ph. Bruce Mactavish, John Wells, Ken Knowles). Casual to New Brunswick and always an exciting find, a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was present at Miramichi Marsh, *Northumberland* 16-22 May (ph. Leonel Richard, m.ob.). An uncommon migrant in spring, a Warbling Vireo was discovered at Port Williams, *Kings*, NS 31 May (James Churchill). Purple Martin is now an uncommon transient in Nova Scotia; only 4 were reported this spring (*fide* Nic Fieldsend). A stray Purple Martin was observed on G.M.I. 14 May (Jim Wilson et al.). Black capped Chickadee is common throughout most of the Region, but their numbers have dropped significantly on St. Pierre et Miquelon. One was at a feeder 30 Mar–12 Apr (Joël Detcheverry) and another on Cape Miquelon 15 May (Frédéric Disnard), the first report for Miquelon since 2000 (*fide* Roger Etcheberry). A **White-breasted Nuthatch** was at a feeder in the village of Miquelon 21-23 Apr (ph. Laurent Jackman), and another—or perhaps the same individual—was located 9 May a few km away (Danielle Goicoetchea); there are no previous records for the French islands. A **White-breasted Nuthatch** at Sandy Cove, Eastport Peninsula 22 Apr (June Napiers, m.ob.) provided Newfoundland with its second provincial record. This sighting was totally unexpected in spring, particularly given the fact that it came from a coastline that is oriented to the northeast (*fide* Bruce Mactavish). These records follow a major (and rare) East Coast autumn 2012 irruption of the species that extended s. at least to Virginia, though numbers of birds involved were much smaller than with Red-breasted Nuthatches. Considered a rare summer resident and an even rarer breeder in New Brunswick,

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS USED IN THE REGIONAL REPORTS

*	specimen collected
+	bird(s) seen through end of period
†	written details on file
A.F.B.	Air Force Base
acc.	accepted by records committee
A.R.C.	Avian Records Committee
b.	banded
B.B.S.	Breeding Bird Survey
B.O.	Bird Observatory
B.R.C.	Bird Records Committee
C.A.	Conservation Area
C.B.C.	Christmas Bird Count
C.P.	County Park
cm	centimeter(s)
Fwy.	Freeway
G.C.	Golf Course
Hwy.	Highway
imm. (imms.)	immature(s)
Jct.	Junction
juv. (juvs.)	juvenile(s)
km	kilometer(s)
mm	millimeter(s)
m.ob.	many (or multiple) observers
N.A.	Nature Area, Natural Area
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.P.	National Park
N.S.	National Seashore
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
p.a.	pending acceptance
P.P.	Provincial Park
ph.	photographed (by + initials)
R.A.	Recreation(al) Area
R.B.A.	Rare Bird Alert
R.P.	Regional Park
R.S.	Regional Shoreline
Rd.	Road
Rte.	Route
S.B.	State Beach
S.L.	Sewage Lagoon
S.F.	State Forest
S.G.A.	State Game Area
S.P.	State Park
S.R.A.	State Recreation Area
S.R.	State Reserve
S.N.A.	State Natural Area
S.W.A.	State Wildlife Area
S.T.P.	Sewage Treatment Plant/Pond
subad. (subads.)	subadult(s)
Twp.	Township
v.r.	voice recording (by + initials)
vt.	videotape (by + initials)
W.A.	Wildlife Area
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
W.T.P.	(Waste)water Treatment Plant/Pond

Italics indicate name of a county, parish, or municipality.



Newfoundland's second White-breasted Nuthatch, ever, was all the more unexpected because it turned up on the northeastern coast of the province at Eastport 20-29 (here 27) April 2013. *Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.*

a pair of House Wrens was on the Kingston Peninsula 28 May (Hank Scarth). A scarce Carolina Wren was observed at Skyline Acres, Fredericton, NB 14 Apr (Christopher Adam). Rarely reported in spring on Prince Edward Island, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was discovered with a large flock of migrating Yellow-rumped Warblers in the Community of East Point, *Kings* 5 May (Scott Sinclair). Once common on St. Pierre, Gray-cheeked Thrush is now rare there; one was reported calling s. of Mirande Lake 29 May (Roger Etcheberry). At least 5 Northern Mockingbirds apparently overwintered in Nova Scotia (*fide* Ken McKenna). Rarely reported in spring on Prince Edward Island, an American Pipit was present at East Point, *Kings* 5 May (Scott Sinclair). Twenty-four American Pipits observed sw. of Langlade, Miquelon 24 Mar (Jacky & Christine Hébert) made a record high for this time of year; 2 were near the village of Miquelon 7 May, and 4 were on the Isthmus 9 May (Laurent Jackman).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A female Prothonotary Warbler, rare in New Brunswick, was on G.M.I. 19 May (ph. Stuart Tingley et al.); all but one record of Prothonotary Warbler in the province have been made along the Bay of Fundy coast. Out of place, 2 rare Hooded Warblers were reported in the French islands, one from St. Pierre 8 May, (Joël Detcheverry) and one from Miquelon 10 May (ph. Roger Etcheberry). A rare Field Sparrow was at North Head Village, G.M.I. 16 May (Jim Wilson et al.). Twelve Vesper Sparrows located during the Nova Scotia Migration Count 11 May was considered surprising, as the species has been in decline in the province for decades (*fide* Ian McLaren). A Lark Sparrow visited feeders in Portugese Cove, H.R.M. 4 Apr (Hans Toom). Slowly increasing its presence in the last decade in the French islands, a Lincoln's Sparrow was observed at Miquelon 20-31 May (Roger Etcheberry).

A rare spring visitor, a female Summer Tanager was found along Whistle Rd., G.M.I. 19 May (Jim Wilson et al.). Male Summer Tanagers were reported at Lower Economy, *Colchester*, NS in mid-May (*fide* Ian McLaren) and at Brier Island, NS 27 May (ph. Russel Crosby); a female was located on Big Tamcook Island, *Lunenburg*, NS 28 May (ph. Hilary Dionne). Uncommon in New Brunswick, a male Scarlet Tanager was along Whistle Rd., G.M.I. 20 Apr (Durlan Ingersoll). An early male Scarlet Tanager was discovered at Martinique Beach P.P., Musquodoboit Harbour, NS 22 Apr (Dominic Cormier); others in Nova Scotia were at Woods Harbour, *Shelburne* 16-18 May and at Hirtle's Beach, *Lunenburg* 26 May (*fide* Ian McLaren). Northern Cardinal continues to expand in the Region, with numerous reports received this season: 62 in Nova Scotia, 5 in New Brunswick, and 5 in Prince Edward Island. A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was observed n. of Miquelon 9 May (Laurent Jackman), and 2 frequented a feeder at St. Pierre 16-31 May (Joël Detcheverry). The only reports of Blue Grosbeak were 15 May at Melbourne, *Yarmouth*, NS (Rachel Smith) and 30 May on C.S.I. (Johnny & Sandra Nickerson). Particularly rare in spring, a Dickcissel was discovered at Portuguese Cove, H.R.M., NS 5 Apr (Hans Toom) and lingered until mid-Apr.

Bobolinks have become rare visitors to St. Pierre over the past few years, and only one was observed this season, 23 May (Patrick Hacala). Two Red-winged Blackbirds were in the French islands: a female on St. Pierre 13-29 Apr (Patrick Hacala) and a male at Miquelon 7 (Frédéric Disnard) & 12-15 May (Jean-Marie Orsiny). The declining Rusty Blackbird breeding population in the Region is of concern; at least 9 were reported in the French islands this season (*fide* Roger Etcheberry), most unexpected. Quite rare in spring in New Brunswick, Orchard Orioles were reported at St. George 2 May (Jim Wilson), along Whistle Rd., G.M.I. 17 May (Jim & Jean Wilson et al.), and at Long Eddy Point, G.M.I. 18 May (Jim Wilson et al.). A male located at Woods Harbour, *Shelburne* 18 May (Dorothy Cameron) made the only report this spring for Nova Scotia. A well-described **Bullock's Oriole** near Broad Cove, *Lunenburg*, NS 26 May (Elizabeth Doull) was an exceedingly rare find; only two of the province's 13 previous records are from spring.

A **Common Chaffinch** appeared 25 Feb at feeders in Corner Brook, NL (ph. Hearder & Louise Butler) and was last reported 27 Mar. The large mixed flock of American Goldfinches and redpolls with which it was associating also left the area in late Mar. In e. Newfoundland, two records of Common Chaffinch were documented during influxes of species from Iceland (*fide* Bruce Mactavish). However, this bird was on the w. coast of Newfoundland, where less expected. The bird was very wary and skittish, but it is nevertheless difficult or impossible to rule out an escapee in such cases (*fide* Bruce Mactavish). Evening Grosbeaks continue to be reported regularly, with at least 8 total for New Brunswick and a fine total of 64 for Prince Edward Island.

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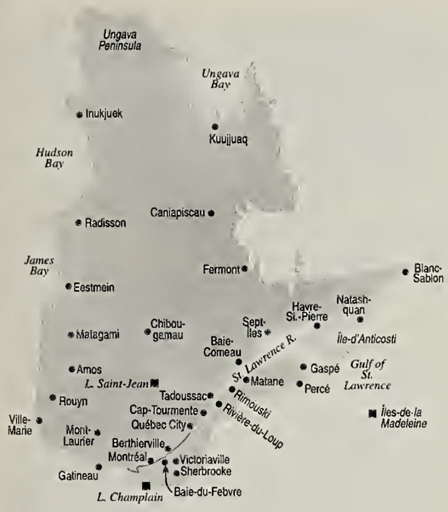


Pierre Bannon
Olivier Barden
Normand David
Samuel Denault

Spring 2013 was warmer than normal everywhere in Québec. Departures from the norm varied from +1° C in southern Québec to +3° in the north. March was 2-6° warmer than normal, April was 1.5° below normal to 0.5° above, and May was 1-2° above normal. A period of abnormally warm weather over southwestern Québec from 28 April through 9 May saw temperatures 7° above normal (and even 15° above 2-8 May). However, despite these warm conditions, Neotropical migrants remained very scarce during this period, as they were most likely held back by adverse winds and rainy conditions in the mid-Atlantic region. As a result, most later migrants only trickled into the Region later in May at a very slow rate.

Total precipitation varied significantly, from below normal over metropolitan Montréal, the Laurentians, and the Ottawa Valley, to above normal over most other parts of the province. Coastal sections of the Gaspé Peninsula and the Lower North Shore were particularly rained on, receiving a surplus of 12-20 cm. Interestingly, the Eastern Townships, the Beauce, Québec City, and the Saguenay had precipitation deficits until the third week of May but ended with a marked surplus. The rain during the last week of May was so heavy (over 10 cm in some sectors) that it reversed the seasonal anomalies.

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBISES

A Pink-footed Goose stopped at Rimouski 27-28 Apr (LM et al.); a Barnacle Goose was at Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade 28 Apr (G. Lord, H. Lord). Most probably escaped from captivity, a Ruddy Shelduck appeared at Victoriaville 14 Apr (Y. Dugré), then at Venise-en-Québec 21 May (P. Savoie), and finally at Shawinigan 1 Jun (JA. Bourassa). Three Mute Swans were spotted at Pointe-au-Père 23 May (JPL et al.); possibly the same 3 were at Capucin/Cap Chat 25 May (C. Lambert); and one was at Girardville 26-27 May (C. Bellemare et al.). Almost routine now in Abitibi, 2 Trumpeter Swans were spotted at Val d'Or 18-21 Apr (RL et al.), but one at Brébeuf in the Laurentians 30 May was rather unexpected (D. Gauthier, *fide* D. Lepage et al.). A presumed Blue-winged Teal × Northern Shoveler hybrid turned up at Cap Tourmente 30 May (LM). Single male **Garganeys** enlivened Le Bic 20-22 Apr (ph., P. Fradette, m.ob.) and Mirabel 27 Apr–3 May (ph., L & P. Simard, m.ob.). A male Tufted Duck at Saint-Gédéon 6 May represented the second record for the Saguenay-Lac Saint-Jean (J. Fortin et al.). Single Ring-necked Duck × Lesser Scaup hybrids, rarely reported in the Region, were photographed at Mirabel 1 May (S. Denault) and at Saint-Gédéon 7 May (GS). A high count of 225 Harlequin Ducks at Percé 10 May was worthy of note (J. Wiseman). Though not as rare, a Common Goldeneye × Hooded Merganser hybrid was located at Rimouski 14-15 Apr (JPL).

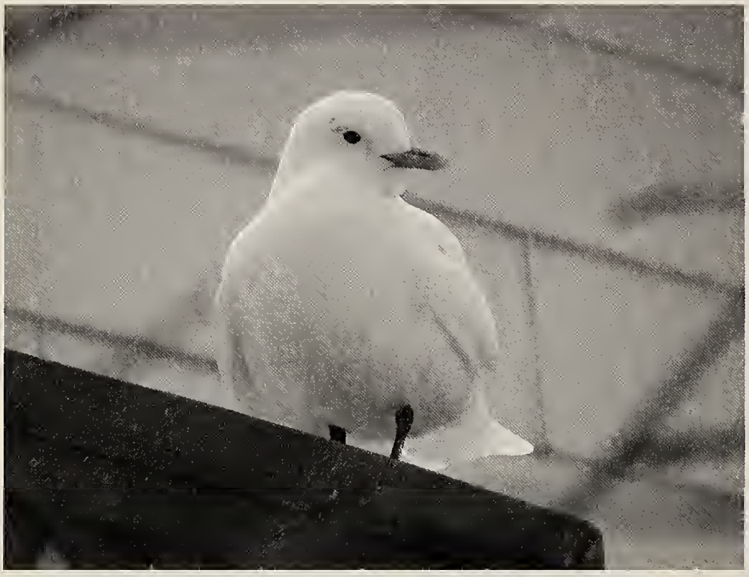
Again this spring, Rivière-Ouelle was the center of abundance of Red-throated Loons, where a count of 9660 was made 4 May (CA, CG). Single American White Pelicans appeared at Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka 2 May (BB, MM), Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois 3-6 May (D. Gruer et al.), and Havre Saint-Pierre 10 May (K. Jenniss, *fide* JPB), and 4 were at Yamachiche 17 May (M. Bourassa). Single Snowy Egrets were noted at Yamachiche 26-27 Apr (JG, N. Girard) and at Québec City 11 May (P. Otis et al.). A Glossy Ibis was at Saint-Joseph-de-Beauce 23-28 Apr (L. Légaré), and another was at Saint-Alexis-de-Matapédia 9-12 May (C. Tremblay).

VULTURES THROUGH DOVES

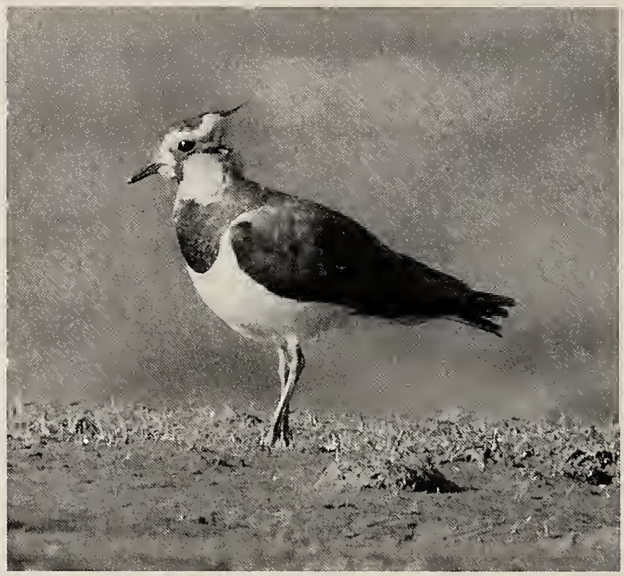
Black Vultures made a good appearance in s. Québec, where they are usually less in evidence than in e. Québec: singles at Saint-Armand 18 Apr (JG. Papineau), Granby 24 Apr (S. Labbé, D. Trescak), and Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka 29 Apr (BB, MM). A dark-morph Swainson's Hawk was well studied at Rivière-Ouelle 4 May (ph. CA, CG). An escaped falconer's hybrid, a Saker × Gyrfalcon was photographed in the wild at Sainte-Foy 5 Apr (P. Dechêne).

Following last winter's unprecedented irruption in e. North America, single northbound **Northern Lapwings** were intercepted at Hope 4-8 May (ph, PP, m.ob.) and at Saint-Barthélemy 25-29 May (ph. Y. Gauthier, m.ob.). A Willet at Val d'Or 7-9 May made a rare occurrence for Abitibi (F. Dubois et al.). A **Black-tailed Godwit** caused a sensation when it showed up at Longue Rive 10-12 May (ph. Y. Fabe, m.ob.). The season total of 3 Marbled Godwits included one at Saint-Blaise 27 Apr, a record-early date for the Region (B. Fréchette et al.). A Pectoral Sandpiper at Bécancour 27 Mar was also record early (JG). Always unpredictable in spring, a Stilt Sandpiper was found at Portneuf-sur-mer 24 May (OB). A male Ruff visited Métabetchouan 4 May (D. Lavoie et al.). Coincident with the heavy rains of late May, up to 700 Short-billed Dowitchers were grounded at both Capucins 24 May and at Saint-Siméon 26 May (M. Larrivée), the highest counts made in the Region since the mid-1990s. Now rare in spring everywhere in the Region, single Wilson's Phalaropes were spotted at Baie-du-Febvre 10 May (A. Rasmussen et al.), at Cap Tourmente 20 May (D. Talbot et al.), at Saint-Barthélemy 25 May (R. Piché), and at Dune-du-Sud, Magdalen Islands 29 May (D. G. Gaudet).

Although there have been a few reports of Black-tailed Godwit in Québec, this one at Longue-Rive 10-12 (here 12) May 2013 is the first to be confirmed by photograph. *Photograph by Gilles Éthier.*



Looking through the window on 8 March 2013, Jacques Deschênes of Sainte-Félicité-de-Matane got the shock of his life when he saw an adult Ivory Gull perched on a trellis in the neighbors' backyard. Two more Ivory Gulls were found at Sainte-Félicité-de-Matane in the following days. *Photograph by Jacques Deschênes.*



This Northern Lapwing, the first of two found in Québec in spring 2013, stopped at Hope in the Gaspésie region 4-8 (here 8) May. *Photograph by Albini Couture.*

After a winter almost devoid of **Ivory Gulls** in the East, at least 3 were discovered and photographed at Sainte-Félicité this spring: an ad. with a dark spot above the eye 8 & 14 Mar (J. Deschênes, m.ob.), another ad. (lacking the dark spot above the eye) 9 & 16 Mar (JM. Turgeon, A. Anctil, H. Johansen), and an imm. 10 Mar (G. Proulx, M. Therriault). A second-hand report involved 2 imms. at Sept-Îles 14 Mar (*fide* F. Gallant). A group of 3 Little Gulls at Amos 10-11 May represented a good find for Abitibi region (P. Perreault, RL). An apparent Glaucous Gull × Great Black-backed Gull at Ragueneau 26 Apr was the second such hybrid to be documented in the province (ph. OB). A record count of 125 Parasitic Jaegers and an additional 2 Long-tailed Jaegers at Rivière-Ouelle 25 May was exceptional (CA, CG). A Common Murre at Neuville 28 May was unusual so far upstream along the St. Lawrence River (G. Cyr). A Thick-billed Murre at Baie-Comeau 8 Mar furnished a very rare late winter record for the North Shore (OB, JPB).

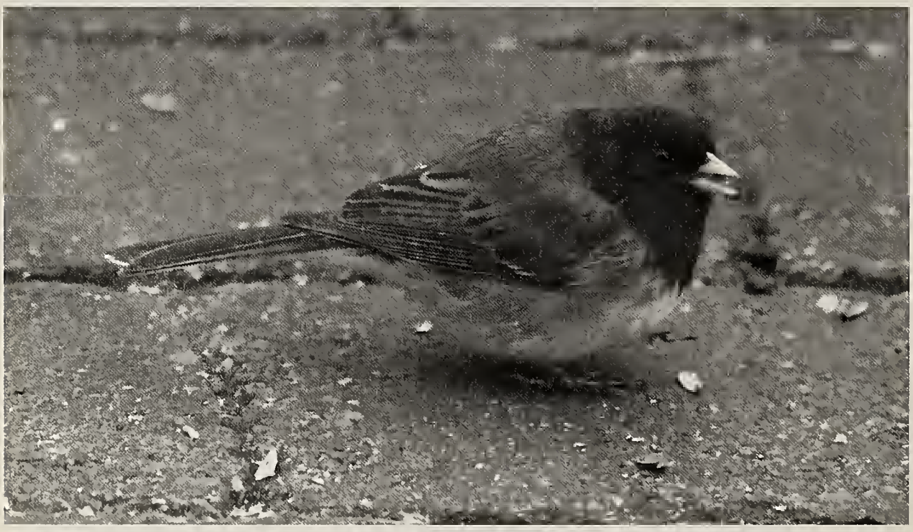
A Eurasian Collared-Dove continued at Sainte-Brigide d'Iberville 11-12 Mar (D. Collins) and again 24 May (H. Méthot). A White-winged Dove at Sept-Îles 14-18 May provided another record for this species, which is appearing with increasing regularity in the Region (J. Laporte et al.).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH ORIOLES

The overwintering Red-headed Woodpecker was still in Sainte-Foy 4 May (OB), while another turned up at Grenville-sur-la-Rouge 20 May (F. Morand), and a bird returned to Aylmer 25-28 May (R. Desramaux). Of 10 Red-bellied Woodpeckers not previously reported last winter, 8 were found during a push spanning 5-20 May, including birds far from the St. Lawrence River at Saint-Georges-de-Beauce 18 May+ (N. Jolin, P. Rodrigue), Saint-Adalbert early May+ (L. Bolduc, *fide* JG. Chouinard), and Gaspé 20 May (DJ). Reported now for the fifth consecutive spring, a White-eyed Vireo paused at Québec City 15 May (ph. C. Leclerc).

A **Violet-green Swallow** well documented at the Deschênes rapids of the Ottawa River in the nation's capital was briefly seen on the Québec side at Gatineau 26 Apr (D. Dallaire, RD), providing a first record for the Region. Single Northern Rough-winged Swallows at Cabano 10 May (M. Beaulieu) and Rivière-Ouelle 18 May (CA, CG) were good finds for the Lower St. Lawrence. Very rare in the Magdalen Islands, a White-breasted Nuthatch was at Portage-du-Cap 28 Apr (G. Chiasson). Stray Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were at Rivière-Ouelle 4 May (CA, CG) and Cap Tourmente 28 May (D. Campeau), while a breeding pair returned to nest at Dundee (S. Rioux et al.). A Townsend's Solitaire, the only one since last fall, was reported at Gatineau 17 Mar (N. Wampach).

A male Prothonotary Warbler briefly visited the aptly named Île de la Visitation, Montréal 21 May (V. Govind Kumar, H. Greenslade), the fourth consecutive spring in the Region. Interesting Field Sparrow ob-



This Oregon Junco stopped over at Saint-Armand, Québec 13-14 (here 14) April 2013. *Photograph by Normand Bourdon.*

servations e. of the species' range were made at Sainte-Félicité 29 Apr (JD), Rivière-Ouelle 12 May (CA, CG), and Grande-Entrée, Magdalen Islands 15 May (JC. Richard). Far more interesting, however, was an apparent **Field Sparrow × Chipping Sparrow** hybrid at Roberval 2-3 May (ph. J. Rousseau). An overwintering Harris's Sparrow was still at Saint-Anaclet-de-Lessard as late as 28 Apr (P. Lambert et al.), while another was discovered deep into spring 31 May–1 Jun at Gaspé (P. Caron, *fide* DJ). Three Oregon Juncos were identified: a female at Aylmer 4-18 Mar (R. Dubois), a female at Laval 5-16 Mar (H. Paproki, Y. Rivard), and a male at Saint-Armand 13-14 Mar (N. Bourdon).

A female Western Tanager photographed at a feeder in Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka 2-3 May was a great find (L. Goneau). A stunning male **Lazuli Bunting** photographed at a Québec City feeder 25-26 May (M. & M. Bourassa, *fide* G. Cyr) provided the third or fourth record for the province. An ad. male **Painted Bunting** photographed at yet another feeder, this time in Saint-François-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud 18-25 May, was the twelfth in the province and the first in six years (Y. Bernier et al., *fide* N. Bernier). A Yellow-headed Blackbird at Val-Paradis, James Bay region 29-31 May was far flung, as is quite often the case with records of this species in the Region (MF. Fortin). Reported for an eighth consecutive spring in the Region, a first-spring male Orchard Oriole put in an appearance at Île Saint-Bernard, Châteauguay region 19 May (D. Ouellette).

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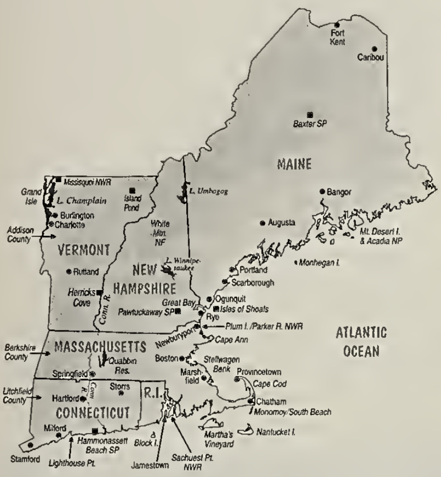
New England


Fort Kent
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Island Pond
L. Umbagog
Bangor
Burlington
Charlotte
Augusta
Addison County
White Mtn. NF
Mt. Desert I. & Acadia NP
VERMONT
L. Winnipesaukee
Monhegan I.
Rutland
NEW HAMPSHIRE
Portland
Scarborough
Herricks Cove
Conn. R.
Great Bay
Ogunquit
Isles of Shoals
Pawtuckaway SP
Rye
Plum I./Parker R. NWR
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Newburyport
Cape Ann
Berkshire County
MASSACHUSETTS
Quabbin Res.
Boston
Stellwagen Bank
Marshfield
Provincetown
Springfield
Cape Cod
Litchfield County
Storrs
Conn. R.
R.I.
Hartford
Chatham
CONNECTICUT
Monomoy/South Beach
Milford
Martha's Vineyard
Nantucket I.
Hammonasset Beach SP
Block I.
Stamford
Lighthouse Pt.
Jamestown
Sachuest Pt. NWR

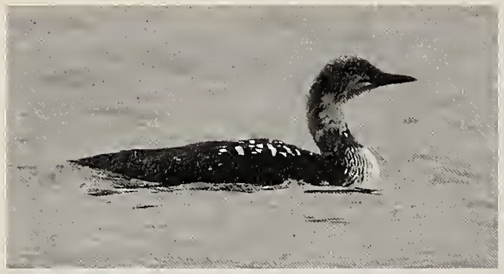
Greg Hanisek

With nods toward winter and the breeding season, spring now best captures the seasonal changes that are scrambling our ideas about avian status and distribution. There's nothing more unsettling than familiar species showing up two weeks, three weeks, or even farther ahead of schedule. Dramatic clusters of arrival records and apparent changes in basic phenology have dominated New England's spring reports for half a decade, but the arc of change has been less than steady. The remarkable events of April 2009, followed by another warm and advanced spring in 2010, were interrupted by an up-and-down season in 2011, when the signature fallout came in the more traditional third week of May. Then 2012 dispelled any notions of backpedaling when it delivered near-record warmth, advanced leaf-out, and many very early first-arrival dates.

Then 2013 edged back to a less radical line. March was largely uneventful. Southerly airflow in early April produced a nice push in Massachusetts, but a 9 April fallout brought expected species such as Eastern Phoebes, Northern Flickers, and Hermit Thrushes and in Connecticut also Chipping Sparrows. A stationary high in late April was, as Masterson noted for New Hampshire, "great for gardening but not so good for migration," although Massachusetts did note a fallout on 20 April. By the end of the month, 21 species of warblers had arrived in the Bay State, but that was well short of the remarkable 29 in the Region in April 2009. Early May also held up a stop sign. Farrell, who has surveyed migrants in Providence for 30 years, noted that 1-8 May was very slow at two major Rhode Island migrant traps. As a result, most significant fallouts occurred in a more traditional time frame: 10 & 16 May in Rhode Island, 16 May in Connecticut, 10 & 14 May in Massachusetts, 16 & 21 May in Maine, and what was described as "a spectacular fallout on New Hampshire's coast and islands" on 24 May with a break in blocking weather. This fallout was also experienced on Monhegan (FM). The 16 May fallout at Napatree Point, Rhode Island was especially strong as well. A classic scenario, a warm front moving through on the evening of 15 May followed by cold front before dawn on 16 May, produced what Raithel called "the largest fallout of land birds seen... during [his] experience there," which dates back 33 more spring seasons.

While these fallout dates don't shake up

New England's five Tufted Ducks in spring 2013 included this adult male, part of a pair, at Johnson's Pond, Groveland, Essex County, Massachusetts 29 March through 19 (here 7) April. *Photograph by Jeremiah Trimble.*



Connecticut's first spring record of Pacific Loon bobbed in Long Island Sound off West Haven 18-20 (here 18) May 2013. *Photograph by Frank Mantlik.*

any long-held verities, Rhode Island still managed two all-time record arrival dates, and Massachusetts had a very early Chimney Swift. Farrell noted in detail the generally earlier arrival of Blackpoll Warblers in recent years that has proven nothing short of remarkable to those of us who remember when the song of the Blackpoll was the death knell of spring migration. When the Blackpoll sang, Yellow-rumpeds were but a vague memory, so it's hard to get used to the days in recent years when those two species have occurred together in good numbers. With these kinds of odd mixes in mind, it's worth noting that the vanguard and the main thrust aren't always moving in lock step. Farrell noted that peak numbers of Blackpolls, as well as the first ones, have been arriving earlier, but that certainly isn't a universal trend. The most spectacular grounding of the season occurred on the unconventionally late date of 30 May (see the Special Attention feature for fascinating details). In many respects, passerine migration seems more jumbled than on a uniform trajectory toward earliness, with some protracted movements providing the other bookend to the very early outliers.

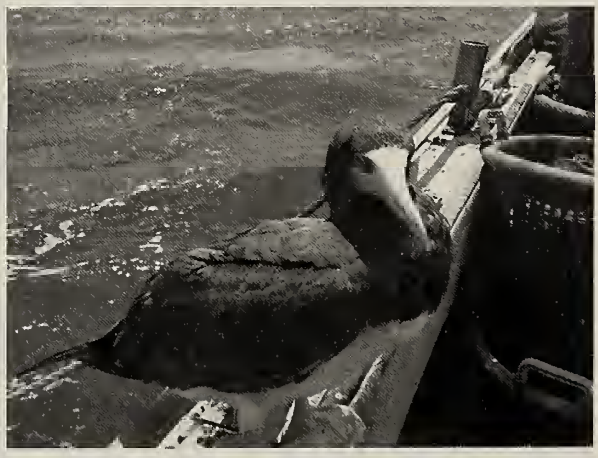
Abbreviations: Lake Champlain (Vermont side of Lake Champlain); Hammonasset (Hammonassett Beach S.P., *New Haven*, CT); Manomet (Manomet Center for Conservation Studies, Plymouth, *Plymouth*, MA.); Monhegan (Monhegan Island, *Lincoln*, ME); Nantucket (Nantucket Island, MA); Plum Island (Newburyport, Newbury, Rowley, Ipswich, including Parker River N.W.R., *Essex*, MA).

WATERFOWL THROUGH VULTURES

Fitting a pattern of late spring/early summer appearances, Maine's third record of **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** involved 6 on Mount Desert Island 27-31 May (S. Dugay, R. MacDonald, ph. B. Marvil, ph. LB, m.ob.); one found dead 28 May (*) was preserved as the state's first specimen. Maine's fourth **Pink-footed Goose** was at Great Salt Bay Preserve, Damariscotta 25 May, a late date and especially rare in spring (ph. M. Fahay). Greater White-fronted Geese were rare only 20 years ago, so it seems glib to relegate them to just a number now, but here are the season's numbers: at least 25 individuals, with all states represented, including a high of 10 for Connecticut; 5 together 2 Mar in Westerly that were Rhode Island's largest single group ever (DF); and a late one in New Hampshire 3 May (EM). Detection of Cackling Geese remains on the rise, with about 20 for the season. A Barnacle Goose was reported from Lake Runnemede, *Windsor*, VT 10 Mar (C. Provost). A Trumpeter Swan was at Konolds Pond, Woodbridge, CT 3-20 Mar, a place where a pair displayed territorial behavior before leaving last spring (S. Broker); birds such as these are surely from introduced populations. Two Tundra Swans at a beaver swamp in Chaplin, *Windham*, CT 24 Mar were the only ones reported (D. Morgan).

Eurasian Wigeons were typically arrayed along the coast, but 2 singles in the Connecticut River Valley were noteworthy: at Portland, CT 7 Apr (E. Dettore) and at Charlestown 13-14 Apr (*fide* EM), only the third valley record for New Hampshire. Northern Shoveler appears to be a species on a general upswing Regionally. Rhode Island reported unprecedented numbers, and New Hampshire noted an apparent increase, with at least 16 at about 10 locations. Several late ones included 2 in Rhode Island until 15 May, 2 through the period in Connecticut, and up to 3 in Massachusetts 21-22 May. **Eurasian Teal** reports of easily identified males included 8 in Maine (plus at least 2 Eurasian × Green-winged), 2 in Connecticut, and 2 in Rhode Island. A few Redheads were noted in all six states, spread over all three months. Concentrations included 12 each on Nantucket 17 Mar (KB) and at Little Pond, Falmouth, MA 10 Mar–6 Apr; 10 at Pond Bridge, Tiverton, RI 2 Mar (A. Morgan); 6 at Lake Champlain in Mar (TM); and 4 on Lake Josephine in far n. Maine, where they have bred, on 19 May (BS). Considering Ring-necked Ducks' aversion to salt water, it's not surprising that one on Monhegan 26 May made only the third island record (DL). Massachusetts turned up single **Tufted Ducks** on Nantucket 2-27 Mar (C. Whitebread, ph. m.ob.) and at Falmouth 11 Mar–6 Apr (ph. G. Hirth, m.ob.). A male and a female Tufted were at West Boxford, MA 29 Mar–11 Apr (N. Walker, ph. m.ob.). Vermont checked in with one Tufted at Potash Bay on Lake Champlain through at least 15 Mar (TM). Seven King Eiders included one present through 30 May at Napatree Point, RI (CR). While Common Eider is abundant and increasing in s. areas where it used to be rare, 10,000 off Nantucket 7 Apr (KB) is a hard number to ignore.

Pacific Loon, increasingly well documented if not actually increasing, made a typical showing: one at Cliff House, *York*, ME 24 Mar (W. Nichols); one at Provincetown, MA through the season (m.ob.); one at Gloucester 10-24 Mar (ph P. Brown, m.ob.); one at Newport, RI 1-6 Mar (ph. P. Champlin); and Connecticut's first spring bird at Milford/West Haven 18-20 May (ph. FG, ph. FM). A Western Grebe at Guilford 29-30 Apr (S. Satin, ph. A. Peterson) was Connecticut's first spring record. The count of 400 Sooty Shearwaters off Chatham, MA 28 May (BN) was notable. Manx Shearwaters continue their presence in Boston Harbor, with up to 15 reported from 4 Apr through May, but breeding has not been confirmed. Connecticut's first **Brown Booby**, part of a recent northward diaspora, landed on an oyster boat off Westport 23 May (ph. P. Rauscher). It was later relocated in Norwalk harbor perched on markers and boats (it landed on one taken out by a birder to look for it!) and was seen by several observers that day only (L. Flynn, NB et al.). Single Leach's Storm-Petrels were very early during a major storm in *Barnstable*, MA at Sandy Neck 7 Mar (G. Hirth) and at First Encounter Beach 9 Mar (MJI, BN, ph. JT et al.). Some 1300 Northern Gannets passed Provincetown 22 May (BN).



Connecticut's first Brown Booby landed on an oyster boat off Westport on 23 May 2013. *Photograph by Patricia Rauscher.*

Thought to be a one-afternoon wonder, Maine's third Northern Lapwing may actually have been present for four days, but a report to a local bird club was not relayed to the public. *Photograph by Derek Lovitch.*

A **Red-billed Tropicbird** returned for the ninth consecutive year to Seal Island N.W.R off the coast of *Knox*, ME, with the first report 14 May (J. Drury). In Massachusetts, single **American White Pelicans** at Chilmark 27-28 May (S. Whiting, ph., m.ob.), at Lake Massapoag 30-31 May (V. White, ph., m.ob.), and at Spot Pond, Stoneham 1 Jun (ph. JR, m.ob.) may have involved one wide-ranging bird.

An early Tricolored Heron appeared at Sherwood Island S.P., Westport, CT 31 Mar (TG); the northernmost Tricolored arrived at Scarborough Marsh, ME 20 Apr (Lake Gerke). A Cattle Egret got as far n. as Shelburne, VT 2 May (A. Wagner); another 8 were scattered among the three s. tier states. The northernmost Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was at Hampton, NH 13 Apr (SM). Away from sw. Connecticut's breeding population, Massachusetts reported 4 Yellow-crowneds and Rhode Island had 6, which prompted Farrell to write: "Despite higher-than-usual numbers this spring, there is still no evidence that this species in nesting anywhere but Block Island, but the increased sightings are suggestive that there is a possible mainland nest location." With White-faced Ibis now an expected seasonal presence in s. New England, 6-7 for the season kept the pattern intact. One or possibly 2 in Connecticut, one in Massachusetts, and one in Rhode Island appeared 14 Apr–22 May. Especially noteworthy were up to 3 at Maine's Scarborough Marsh. The first 2 arrived 17 Apr (ph. DHi) and remained through the season. The third appeared 24 Apr (A. Aldrich), and an apparent Glossy x White-faced hybrid showed up 21 Apr (DHi). This marks the sixth consecutive year for the species at this site and the second year in a row with 3 birds there. The northernmost Black Vulture was near Hinesburg, VT 8 Apr (K. Danforth).

KITES THROUGH ALCIDS

Despite **Swallow-tailed Kites**' now annual spring presence, they'll never stop exciting New Englanders, birders and nonbirders alike. This year sightings came in a tight window at Milford, CT 13 May (ph. D. Sielerski), Providence, RI 15 May (S. Talbot), and Hatfield, MA 17 May (2 birds; P. Allison). Mississippi Kites were clustered in the last week of May, when Connecticut registered 3 widely scattered migrants; Rhode Island had 2 together at Wakefield (ST); and at least 2 were at the n. end of the Cape Cod kite funnel in May, and 7 were counted there 1 Jun (JT, BN).

As secretive marsh dwellers near the n. limits of their range, King Rails are well qualified for under-reporting, so observers did well to turn up 4 each in Massachusetts and Connecticut. Common Gallinules missed Maine, Connecticut, and Rhode Island but registered a respectable 15 elsewhere: 8 in Massachusetts, 6 in Vermont, and one in New Hampshire. Sandhill Cranes have now so permeated the Region that a migration season summary need not be more than a simple tally: about 75 were reported, many of them part of multiple-bird sightings, from all six states. The more significant information now belongs to the breeding season.

The species of the season might well be **Northern Lapwing**. Three states logged a total of 5 of these charismatic Old World plovers, causing birders to log many miles in pursuit or search. Four in Massachusetts comprised 3 carry-overs from winter on Nantucket through 1 Apr (m.ob.) and one at Bolton Flats 27-30 Apr (S. Arena, ph., m.ob.). Maine's third was found by a birder 6 May but apparently had been present since 3 May (I. Stenhouse, P. Moynahan, RL). New Hampshire's first photographically documented lapwing was present at Loudon 10 Mar (*fide* EM). A bird of even greater magnitude (based on the number of Lower 48 records), a male **Common Ringed Plover** was at Plum Island 20-23 May for Massachusetts's third record (ph. S. Sullivan, m.ob.). Reports of at least 12 American Golden-Plovers marked a good spring total. Unique for the Region was an American Avocet at Dartmouth, MA 31 May (*fide* P. Champlin). A Western Willet that wintered on Block Island was present through the period (DF). An unusual fallout of Whimbrels 24 May along the Connecticut coast brought 12 to Sandy Point in West Haven (NB) and 31 to Penfield Reef in Fairfield (J. Purcell). The only Marbled Godwit appeared at Chatham, MA 25 May (B. Harris). Red Knot reports were in single digits everywhere but outer Cape Cod, with a high of 35 on 30 May at Orleans (C. Goodrich). New Hampshire had the only **Curlew Sandpiper**, at Hampton Harbor 22 May (LK). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper, rare in the Northeast in spring, provided Maine's first spring record at Scarborough Marsh 26 May (B. Hancock, *fide* LB). The only **Ruff** reported was at Rowley, MA 14-16 May (B. Murphy, m.ob.). Multiple Wilson's Phalaropes were present at the salt pannes at Rowley through most of May, with an excellent high count of 7 on 25 May (JT, m.ob.). Three were at Barn Island, Stonington, CT 21 May (ph. R. Smiley), and Vermont registered 2 singles at separate locations in late May. Red-necked Phalaropes were hardly reported, with 2 in Massachusetts and one in Maine.

Black-headed Gulls were unusual finds at three inland locations, in Massachusetts at Amherst 12-13 Mar (ph. ID) and at Webster 28 Mar (JL) and in New Hampshire at Manchester 5 Mar (LK). A Laughing Gull was a surprise inland at Hadley, MA 20 Apr (J. Drucker). Little Gulls were scattered along primarily the Massachusetts coast from Rye, NH to Chatham, with a highs of 4 at Eastham 13 Apr (JT) and 3 at Newburyport 25 May (JB). The larid of the season was an ad. **Franklin's Gull** at Bolton Flats, MA 29 May (ph. JL, ph. J. Johnson), the first in the state since 2008 and especially noteworthy inland. The early spring staging of gulls in Long Island Sound, where they surface-feed on zooplankton along with waterfowl, produced numbers such as 8000 Herring Gulls and 10,000 Ring-billed Gulls off Stratford, CT 28 Mar (FM). If you haven't seen enough Lesser Black-backed Gulls where you usually bird, try Nantucket, where 302 were counted 23 Mar (E. Ray). A Caspian Tern was a rare find for inland Maine on the Kennebec River, Fairfield 11 May (ph. LB). Fourteen

Alcids in general, and murres in particular, are rare in Suffolk County, Massachusetts. This Common Murre carcass photographed at Revere Beach 19 May 2013 provided a noteworthy county record. *Photograph by Robert Stymeist.*

Eurasian Collared-Dove's explosive northward march has largely bypassed New England, so Maine's first one on 28 May 2013 at Falmouth ended long anticipation. *Photograph by Alex Carrier.*

Black Terns off Stamford and Darien, CT 23 May made a high number for Long Island Sound (J. Dugan). An Arctic Tern found its way, along with a Black Tern, to the Berkshires at Pontoosuc Lake, Lanesboro MA 25 May (ph. MJI). Massachusetts's 2 Forster's Terns in May were the only ones reported. Rhode Island reported the only Sandwich Tern, at Middletown 23 May (ph. R. Larsen). A pelagic trip to Cox's Ledge, RI 27 May produced a South Polar Skua (CP).

Alcids aren't the first birds that come to mind in late spring, but a number of interesting sightings came from the mainland into the third week of May. Alcids are rare in *Suffolk*, MA, and murres especially so; a dead Common Murre at Revere Beach 19 May was particularly noteworthy (ph. RS). A high count of 57 Common Murres passed First Encounter Beach, Eastham, MA 13 Apr (JT). Thick-billed Murres are usually gone by Apr, so the presence of multiple birds, many sickly, in May was significant: at least one, possibly more, were in the Gloucester, *Essex* area 12 Apr–12 May (Suzanne Sullivan, S. Hedman, ph. MJI, ph. Ryan Schain); on Cape Cod, singles were at South Monomoy 2 May (ph. Yianni Laskaris) and Herring Cove, Provincetown 17 May (BN); and another was at Odiorne S.P., Rockingham, NH 11 May (ph. Jason Lambert, SM). Perhaps the sea surface temperature anomaly that drove Razorbills (and a few murres) southward contributed to these late-lingering murres. Razorbills staged a historic southward push in Dec 2012, so it is possible that unusual counts in s. New England in spring 2013 were because of above-normal numbers heading northward and encountering the New England coastline. Suggestions of this movement included 69 flying eastward past Gooseberry Neck, Bristol, MA 8 Apr (MJI) and an especially impressive flight of 353 headed southward out of Narragansett Bay, RI 12 Apr (TA). Higher counts from areas of more expected occurrence included 350 at Provincetown 3 Mar (BN), 177 at First Encounter Beach 9 Mar (BN), and 155 at Jeffrey's Ledge 13 Apr (R. Schain). A Razorbill at Freeport, ME 9 Mar (DL) was unusual so far upriver. The handful of Atlantic Puffins seen s. of Maine were all in Massachusetts, including land-based sightings of 2 at Rockport 6 Mar (RH) and one at First Encounter Beach 13 Apr (JT).

This Acadian Flycatcher at Fort Foster, Kittery, Maine 21 May 2013 was present just one day; the species is not recorded annually in the state. *Photograph by Jeannette Lovitch.*

DOVES THROUGH LONGSPURS

The very slow crawl of **Eurasian Collared-Doves** away from their main northwesterly dispersal pattern brought Maine its first at Falmouth 28 May (C. Kent, ph. A. Carrier, m.ob.). A wintering **Northern Hawk Owl** lingered at Houlton, ME through 23 Mar (BS). In addition to at least 3 Chuck-will's-widows on Cape Cod, one found on private property in *Washington*, RI 29 Apr marked the fourth year in a row for the species at that location (H. Leeson). A Chimney Swift was very early at West Roxbury, MA 9 Apr (MJI). The earliest report of Ruby-throated Hummingbird was 15 Apr at South Kingstown, RI (J. McGuire), with wide-ranging arrivals in the s. tier 25-30 Apr. While Rufous Hummingbirds are now regular, primarily in fall and early winter, much remains to be learned about the success and extent of their wintering attempts. A female first seen in early Jan at feeders in Groton, CT remained there until 18 Apr (M. Ramonas). In Newport, RI, an unidentified *Selasphorus* present at a feeder since 14 Nov 2012 was last seen 14 Mar (C. Clarkson). The 9 Apr fallout in Massachusetts brought an excellent 362 American Kestrels to Plum Island (*fide* RS).

Red-headed Woodpeckers are so arresting in appearance as to distract from the truly enigmatic nature of their presence in New England. Nine were reported this season: 4 in Connecticut, 2 each in Massachusetts and Maine, and one in New Hampshire. An enigma on a whole different level was the **Lewis's Woodpecker** at Lunenberg, MA 26 May in (ph. J. Mills); the state has two previous records, and the New England total is five records, all from spring.

Maine had the northernmost Acadian Flycatchers at Kittery 21 May and on Monhegan 26 & 30 May (DL, RL, ph. LS, m.ob.), as well as the northernmost White-eyed Vireo on 27 May on Monhegan (DL). A Warbling Vireo seen and heard singing on 14 Apr in Lincoln was Rhode Island's earliest ever (S.

Talbot). Rhode Island also set an early record with a Cliff Swallow at South Kingstown 4-6 Apr (J. St. Jean, B. Gearhart); it beat a 19 Apr 1927 record. A scattering of Purple Martins in s. and cen. Maine were the northernmost, away from the significant population in the Lake Champlain basin. A **Cave Swallow** at Great Meadows N.W.R. 27-28 May furnished the third spring record in four years for Massachusetts (ph. C. Winstanley, m.ob.). An increased northerly presence of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers included birds at Waterville, ME 22 Apr (M. Viens) and Bethlehem, NH 27 Apr (*fide* EM). The Region's only **Mountain Bluebird** brought a crowd to a farm in Williamstown, MA 27 Apr–2 May (ph. G. Hurley, m.ob.). In a season with more than one legitimate contender, bird of the season was Massachusetts's second and the Lower 48's sixth **Fieldfare**. Hundreds of observers enjoyed the bird in Carlisle 17-23 Mar (ph. A. Ankers, m.ob.), not far from the site of the previous state record, also in *Middlesex*. Northwestern Vermont held the highest concentration of Bohemian Waxwings, with 130 at Grand Isle 30 Mar (TM) and 150 at South Burlington 14 Apr (TM). Lapland Longspur lingered through 4 May at Lake Therrien, Northampton, MA and through 7 May at Hammonasset (JC).

This Fieldfare was found by Alan Ankers in a flock of American Robins at the Greenough Land, Carlisle, about 8 kilometers south of Lowell, Massachusetts 17 (here 22) March 2013; it was present for a week, seen by numerous birders from near and far. *Photograph by Tom Johnson.*

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

The only Worm-eating Warbler reported from the n. states was at Fort Stark, NH 25 May (J. Lambert). Golden-winged Warbler continues to decline; there were 6 widely scattered single birds and a cluster of about 15 in w. Vermont. In addition, 3 Lawrence's Warblers and 6 Brewster's Warblers were noted. A total of 9 Prothonotary Warblers consisted of 5 in Massachusetts, 2 in Connecticut, and one each

SA Spring summaries for most recent years have focused on early migration dates, but it remains true that even as averages shift, weather still plays a major role in arrival patterns. Spring 2013 was generally cold and wet, with lots of blocking patterns. eBird allows comparison of five years of arrival timing (use Line Graphs and choose "Separate Years"), and this shows 2013 unquestionably to be the latest spring since 2009, with some May arrivals lagging behind by up to a week from the recent averages. Of course, inclement weather is a two-sided coin, and when pent-up *Zugunruhe* (migratory restlessness) finally wins out, major flights can occur, and the precipitation or fog can yield spectacular fallouts.

On a foggy Maine morning following a wet period that blocked migration, Marshall Iliff at Biddeford Pool and Robby Lambert on Monhegan Island both had spectacular counts during a fallout on 30 May. Iliff had a morning flight leaving the fogged-in coast at dawn and funneling along the neck at Biddeford en route to the mainland. Iliff arrived at 0743 and in 94 minutes counted some 5000 flying passerines, but he noted that the flight was already strongly underway when he arrived, may have started two hours earlier, and was still ongoing when he left. All birds were wind-tossed and difficult to identify, so he recorded 3057 unidentified small passerines (surely predominated by Red-eyed Vireos, Magnolia Warblers, and American Redstarts), but he also identified 185 unidentified *Empidonax* (probably mostly Willow/Alder), 26 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, 245 Red-eyed Vireos, 432 Cedar Waxwings, 376 American Redstarts, and 336 Magnolia Warblers. The next most common warblers were Black-throated Green (32), Canada (30), Wilson's (23), and Mourning (17). Among 18 warbler species, the more easterly migrants like Northern Parula (4), Blackpoll (11), and Black-throated Blue (1) were comparatively under-represented, especially since all three are often significant components of late flights. Other warblers included Ovenbird (3), Northern Waterthrush (1), Blue-winged (1), Black-and-white (8), Common Yellowthroat (5), Bay-breasted (4), Blackburnian (11), Yellow (11), and Chestnut-sided (10).

Lambert's species composition was similar on Monhegan, with even higher numbers of *Empidonax* at this well-known migrant trap: he counted a staggering 770 *Empidonax*, including 22 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, as well as 300+ Red-eyed Vireos, 300+ Magnolias, and 100+ American Redstarts among 18 warblers species. Like Iliff, he also had but one Baltimore Oriole and a relatively low 45 Blackpolls. At Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences in Plymouth, MA, Trevor Lloyd-Evans had a good season with 185 birds banded on 10 May and 209 on 14 May, but his peak was also the 30 May fallout, resulting in 248 birds banded. Again, similar species were involved: 16 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, 56 Willow/Alder Flycatchers, and 9 Mourning Warblers.

The signature of each fallout event is different and may involve very specific parcels of co-migrants; the 30 May fallout seemed clearly to involve more westerly species, which predominantly winter in Middle America, many of which are circum-Gulf migrants rather than trans-Gulf or Caribbean migrants. In this year, it may be that more easterly species such as Blackpoll Warbler (often thought of as "late" migrants) were able to arrive earlier, while more westerly migrants were severely delayed by a series of cold fronts affecting Texas as well as unsettled weather over the East. Also of interest in this flight was that few large-bodied species were involved, with Iliff finding no Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and just singles of Baltimore Oriole, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, and Swainson's Thrush. Perhaps these species are less prone to wind drift overnight? It appears that spring migration has become not just earlier on average but possibly also less predictable and more complex.

An impressive irruption of redpolls over the winter season continued into the early spring, with a goodly number of bonafide Hoary Redpolls being reported and documented in New England; this bird was at Pownal, Maine 4 March 2013. *Photograph by Derek Lovitch.*

in Rhode Island and Maine, all in May. The spring trickle of Orange-crowned Warblers brought 3 to Massachusetts and one each to Rhode Island and Vermont. Massachusetts had a nice showing of 10 Kentucky Warblers ranging from 1 through 30 May, so it's surprising only one other was reported, at Star Island, NH 19 May (EM). A Hooded Warbler was a bit early at Milford, CT 18 Apr (FG). The only Cerulean Warbler in the n. tier was at Cornwall/Bridport, VT 10-30 May (IW). A female **Audubon's Warbler** was an excellent spring find at Provincetown 22 May (BN). Yellow-throated Warbler reports came from Massachusetts (three in Apr, two in May), Rhode Island, and New Hampshire (each with one in May). The warbler of the season was an ad. male **Townsend's Warbler** on Nantucket 5 May (ph. KB et al.), an island first. Most records in the Northeast are from fall/winter, but the Bay State's first was in May 1978.

A very late American Tree Sparrow was carefully identified at Hammonasset 11 May (JC et al.). A season total of 16 Clay-colored Sparrows, unthinkable not that long ago, included 8 in Massachusetts, 5 in New Hampshire, 2 in Maine, and one in Vermont. As prospecting breeders become more widespread in the Region, this number will surely go up. A Field Sparrow was far n. at Woodland, ME 21 Apr (BS). Massachusetts's 3 mid-May Lark Sparrows were the only ones reported. Summer Tanager numbers went through the roof, with at least 25 recorded, led by a whopping 14 in Massachusetts. Only Vermont failed to record at least one. Eight reports of Blue Grosbeaks in Apr–May fit the expected pattern, but one carrying over until 21 Apr from a long winter's stay at a Merrimac, MA feeder was remarkable (B. Buxton). An Indigo Bunting that wintered at a feeder in Woodbridge, CT was last seen there 27 Apr (C. Loscalzo). Adult male Painted Buntings visited Greenwich, CT 4 May (T. Baptist), Pine Hills, Plymouth, MA 15-16 May (ph. K. Doyon), and Levant, ME 31 May (M. Elston, ph. LB). Six Yellow-headed Blackbirds—3 in Connecticut and one each in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire—made a modest total. A **Bullock's Oriole** that wintered at an Ellington, CT feeder was taken into care 21 Mar after showing signs of illness; it recovered (D. McTigue).

The Red Crossbill flight continued strong into Mar, with widespread birds still found into Apr and May, especially along the coast, e.g., 10 on Nantucket 18 May (KB). The White-winged Crossbill flight followed a similar pattern into Apr before quickly tailing off, but on outer Cape Cod, up to 16 were at Wellfleet 20 May (K. Yakola), with one as late as 1 Jun at Provincetown (JT). After the major winter flight, Common Redpoll numbers remained strong into early Mar, with counts of 100+ at several feeders in the s. and a peak of 300 at a Barkhamsted, CT feeder 23 Mar (FZ). New Hampshire and Vermont had a few reports in the first week of May, with a late one at Ripton, VT 19 May. Two **Hoary Redpolls** were still at Barkhamsted, CT 6 Apr (ph. FZ), and the n. states all had a few through mid-Apr. The Pine Siskin flight was pervasive. As an example: they first appeared at a large Sterling, *Windham* CT feeding station in Oct 2012, and 120 were still there 23 Apr (R. Dixon). Numbers dwindled in May, but juvs. were noted at Sterling in May, and a few were still around in Jun, making 243 straight days of siskins there. An Evening Grosbeak visited Block Island 11-16 May (M. Komosinski), and one was on Monhegan 26 May (DL).

SA Anyone would be pleased and excited to see a Yellow-headed Blackbird at their feeder, but Linda and Bob Dixon of Sterling, CT could be forgiven if they'd been hoping for something even more noteworthy in their yard, which is carefully landscaped with birds in mind. When an imm. male Yellow-headed paid a visit 16-19 Mar, however, it was the sixth of that species they'd seen there. An ad. male Yellow-headed there 24 Mar added a remarkable seventh. Living in a lightly birded far-eastern pocket of Connecticut, Bob Dixon's meticulous eBird records show how much one person's efforts can contribute to an area's and a state's bird records. The work is certainly worth the rewards, which in addition to the Yellow-headed Blackbirds include 2 White-winged Doves, a Rufous Hummingbird, a Western Tanager, and 3 Dickcissels.

Observers: Tom Auer, **Jim Berry** (Massachusetts), **Louis R. Bevier** (Maine), Nick Bonomo, Kenneth Blackshaw, Jerry Connolly, Glenn d'Entremont, Ian Davies, Paul Desjardins, **Rachel Farrell** (Rhode Island), Dan Finizia, Frank Gallo, Tina Green, Rick Heil, Doug Hitchcox (DHi), Dave Hoag (DHo), Pamela Hunt, Marshall J. Iliff, Seth Kellogg, Lauren Kras, Robby Lambert, Justin Lawson, Derek Lovitch, **Frank Mantlik**, (Connecticut), **Eric Masterson** (New Hampshire), Steve Mirick, **Ted Murin** (Vermont), Blair Nikula, Carlos Pedro, Wayne Petersen, Chris Raithel, **Marjorie Rines** (Massachusetts), Bill Sheehan, Luke Seitz, Robert Stymeist, Jeremiah Trimble, Scott Tsagarakis, Ian Worley, Fran Zygmont. I thank Louis Bevier, Pam Hunt, Marshall J. Iliff, and Frank Mantlik for their assistance with this column.

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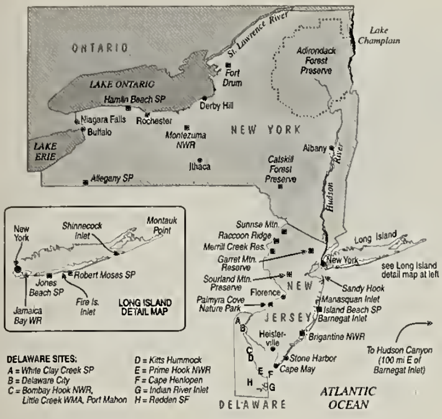
ONTARIO
St. Lawrence River
Lake Champlain
Adirondack Forest Preserve
Fort Drum
LAKE ONTARIO
Hamlin Beach SP
Derby Hill
Niagara Falls
Rochester
Buffalo
Montezuma NWR
NEW YORK
Albany
LAKE ERIE
Ithaca
Catskill Forest Preserve
Hudson River
Allegany SP
New York
Shinnecock Inlet
Montauk Point
Robert Moses SP
Jones Beach SP
Fire Is. Inlet
Jamaica Bay WR
LONG ISLAND DETAIL MAP
Sunrise Mtn.
Raccoon Ridge
Merrill Creek Res.
Garret Mtn. Reserve
Sourland Mtn. Preserve
Florence
Palmyra Cove Nature Park
Long Island
New York
see Long Island detail map at left
Sandy Hook
Manasquan Inlet
Island Beach SP
Barnegat Inlet
NEW JERSEY
Heislerville
Brigantine NWR
Stone Harbor
Cape May
To Hudson Canyon (100 mi E of Barnegat Inlet)
DELAWARE SITES:
A = White Clay Creek SP
B = Delaware City
C = Bombay Hook NWR, Little Creek WMA, Port Mahon
D = Kitts Hummock
E = Prime Hook NWR
F = Cape Henlopen
G = Indian River Inlet
H = Redden SF
DELAWARE
ATLANTIC OCEAN

Shaibal S. Mitra
Robert O. Paxton
Tom Reed
Frank Rohrbacher

Aficionados of spring migration can be difficult to please, so considerable skepticism is needed when attempting to interpret and summarize the myriad complaints voiced every year regarding the tempo, mode, and overall quality of the migration. Often, perceptions of poor migration can be ascribed to chance, more or less local circumstances, or the inexorable tendency for one's powers of observation to erode more quickly than one's expectations. And many migratory bird populations have truly been trending downward for many years. That said, the interruption imposed by spring 2013's Omega Block weather pattern was not only unusually intense, sustained, and broad-reaching, but it occurred during early May, precisely the period when migration *always* prevails—or so we thought.

Beyond the poor showing of early May migrants, spring 2013 featured many other interesting patterns; and I've deliberately chosen to focus intensively on a few of these at the expense of others. For instance, I have given little space to the many early arrival dates recorded during mid- to late April, to enumerating the occurrence of scarce but regular Neotropical migrants, or to documenting the back end of the many striking irruptions that occurred from fall 2012 through winter 2013. Instead, I've focused more on emerging patterns likely related to range expansions—both of breeding distributions and of wintering distributions—and on the links between vagrancy and these population-level processes. One group that furnished a great deal of data this spring was the Arctic-breeding geese. And, as described in last spring's essay, many species whose traditional wintering ranges lie far to the south appear to be increasing their winter and early spring use of human-altered habitats in eastern North America. These include not only western North American breeders regarded as vagrants here, such Rufous and other hummingbirds, Say's Phoebe, Western Tanager, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and others, but also a variety of eastern breeders.

Abbreviations: Avalon (oceanfront at Avalon, *Cape May*, NJ); Bashakill (Bashakill W.M.A., *Sullivan* and *Orange*, NY); Batavia (Batavia W.T.P., *Genesee*, NY); Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N.W.R., *Kent*, DE); Braddock Bay (Braddock Bay B.O., near Rochester, NY); Brigantine (Brigantine Unit, Forsythe N.W.R., *Atlantic*, NJ); Cape May (in *Cape May*, NJ); Central Park (in Manhattan, NY); Derby Hill (Derby Hill Hawkwatch, near Mexico, *Oswego*, NY); Hamlin Beach (Hamlin Beach S.P., *Monroe*, NY); Heislerville (Heislerville W.M.A., *Cumberland*, NJ); Jamaica Bay (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Gateway National Recreation Area, *Kings* and *Queens*, NY); Jones Beach (Jones Beach S.P., *Nassau*, NY); Manitou (Manitou, *Monroe*, NY); Montezuma (Montezuma area, including Montezuma N.W.R., *Seneca*, NY, Savannah, *Wayne*, NY, and Montezuma W.M.A., *Cayuga*, NY); Moriches (Moriches Inlet, *Suffolk*, NY); Prime Hook (Prime Hook N.W.R. and Prime Hook W.M.A., *Sussex*, DE), Robert Moses S.P. (on Fire Island, *Suffolk*, NY); Sandy Hook (Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway National Recreation Area, *Monmouth*, NJ).

WATERFOWL THROUGH GREBES

About 20 Greater White-fronted Geese were recorded, mostly in New Jersey and w.-cen. New York, but singles were seen n. to Derby Hill 22 Mar (SK) and Fort Miller, *Washington* 23 Mar (RG) and s. to Bergold Rd., *Kent*, DE 18 Mar (GL). Single **Pink-footed Geese** continued from winter at Pine Island, *Orange*, NY through 3 Mar (J. Lawson, ph.) and at Assiscong Marsh, *Hunterdon*, NJ through 23 Mar (RF, m.ob.). Upstate New York's first **Pink-footed Goose** was found by David Wheeler at Pennellville, *Oswego* 18-19 Mar, followed by another at Montezuma 26 Mar (found by Steve Kolbe, birding that day with Wheeler and others!). Ross's Goose was very widely reported, with at least 15 in w. New York (*fide* MM, RGS), the latest being one among Ring-billed Gulls at Niagara Falls 15-19 Apr (EG). Other Ross's were near Pine Island, NY 7 Mar (JH); at Edgemere, *Queens*, NY 5 Apr (C. Finger); at Riverhead, *Suffolk*, NY through 6 Mar (DR); and in *Salem*, NJ 18-27 Mar (S. Glynn, m.ob.). The species was routinely detected along Delaware's bayshore, including 5 birds in a large flock of Snow Geese along Kitt's Hummock Rd., *Kent* 24 Mar (AK, TS). A Black Brant was at Allenhurst Boardwalk, *Monmouth*, NJ 28 Mar (E&MD); another was at Great River, *Suffolk*, NY 31 Mar–25 Apr (PJL, DR, m.ob.). A Barnacle Goose continuing from winter at Lincoln Park West, *Hudson*, NJ through 15 Mar (BMcM, ph.) might plausibly have been the bird seen at Bronxville, *Westchester*, NY 20-22 Mar (A. Campanini) and then at nearby at Larchmont Reservoir 24 Mar (BVD, ph.). About 100 Cackling Geese were reported, the southernmost being singles at Hoopes Reservoir, *New Castle*, DE 23 Mar (TS, ph.) and Cape May through 8 Apr (KLu et al.).

Eurasian Wigeon reports came from upstate New York (six), Long Island (13; anchored by 7 together at West Sayville, *Suffolk* 2 Mar; MMcB), New Jersey (six), and Delaware, with singles at Gordon's Pond, *Sussex* through 4 Apr (SLy) and along Broadkill Beach Rd. 4-8 May (FR). A male Tufted Duck was at Parvin S.P., *Salem*, NJ 22 Mar (D. Weber, ph.) through 4 Apr (JC, ph.); others in New York continued from winter at Oswego Harbor, *Oswego* through 17 Mar (BP, m.ob.), at Mullen Bay, Lake Champlain, *Essex* through 10 Mar (AW), and at two locations on nw. Long Island at Huntington, *Suffolk* through 10 Apr (Charlene Turner, ph.) and at Blydenburgh Park, *Suffolk* through 8 Mar (PS). Barrow's Goldeneye occurs regularly in the n. parts of the Region, but 4 together was a high count at Mullen Bay, Lake Champlain, *Essex* 10 Mar (AW). The species reaches its normal s. limits around Long Island, where it is regular on the North Shore and East End but relatively rare along the s. shore, where a female continuing at Fire Island Inlet through 4 Mar was the most southerly (R. Bate).

Single Pacific Loons were at Allenhurst Boardwalk, *Monmouth*, NJ 2-21 Mar (TB et al.), Morris Plains, *Morris*, NJ 9-20 Mar (juv.; J. Glydon, m.ob.), and Lake Parsippany, *Morris*, NJ 16 Mar–6 Apr (ad.; J. Klizas, SL, m.ob.). Five Western Grebes were found: at

Described as "undoubtedly Delaware's most cooperative Eared Grebe ever," this bird was present at and near Indian River Inlet, Sussex County from winter through 31 (here 11) March 2013. *Photograph by Colin Campbell.*

Found by Andy Ednie in Bear Swamp, Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Delaware on 29 March 2013, this Northern Lapwing was Delaware's fourth ever. *Photograph by Dawn Miller.*

This Red Phalarope was found by Frank Sencher, Sr. at Round Valley Reservoir, Hunterdon County, New Jersey on the very early date of 19 March 2013. *Photograph by Frank Sencher, Jr.*

Irondequoit Bay outlet, *Monroe*, NY 12-18 Mar (ST et al., m.ob.); Sodus Bay, *Wayne*, NY 16-18 Mar (D. Carter, ph; m.ob.); South Amboy, *Middlesex*, NJ 11 May (A. Laquidara, J. Beetham, P. Belardo); Monmouth Beach, *Monmouth*, NJ through 17 Mar (Scott Barnes et al.); and Cape May 27 Apr–13 May (LW et al., m.ob.). Four Eared Grebes included singles at Yates, *Orleans* 14 Apr (BK, JP), Canandaigua Lake, *Ontario* 14-17 Apr (CJ, ph; m.ob.), Stewart Park, Ithaca, *Tompkins*, NY 13-14 Apr (DNu, m.ob.), and Indian River Inlet, *Sussex*, DE until 31 Mar (m.ob.).

FRIGATEBIRD THROUGH RAPTORS

A frigatebird seen from a vehicle on the Long Island Expressway near Patchogue, *Suffolk*, NY 21 May (J. Horman) must have been both shocking and frustrating! An ad. Northern Gannet at Hamlin Beach 5 & 18 May (AG, ph.) was the first ever in spring in New York's Genesee region and just the second ad. ever seen there. An imm. gannet on Cayuga Lake at Long Point, *Cayuga*, NY 23 May (KMcG) was the first ever in spring for the Finger Lakes region. Two American White Pelicans were at Buckhorn Island S.P., *Erie*, NY 19 May (M. Galas et al.), and 2 were at Braddock Bay the same day (LT et al.). The only Yellow-crowned Night-Heron n. of the New York City area was one at Bashakill 20 Apr (S. Baldinger et al.), just the third ever for *Sullivan*, NY. Single White-faced Ibis were noted at Heislerville 15 May (J. Hawkin), Brigantine 15 May (M. Crewe et al.), Manahawkin W.M.A., *Ocean*, NJ 6 May (SB, LM), and Jamaica Bay 22 Apr (AB). An imm. White Ibis at Prime Hook 19-22 Apr (N. Goggin) was unique in the Region this spring.

Swallow-tailed Kites n. of Cape May included 2 at Baldpate Mountain, *Mercer*, NJ 21 May (M. Gallagher) and singles at Cushetunk Mountain Preserve, *Hunterdon*, NJ 27 May (J. Dolan), Kissena Park, *Queens*, NY 10 May (C. Castillo), Van Cortlandt Park, *Bronx*, NY 25 Apr (JY), and Pine Island 26 May (Thomas Millard). Mississippi Kites were widely reported from *New Castle*, DE and s. New Jersey, but the only reports from beyond these places, at least through season's end, were at Edison, *Middlesex*, NJ 11 May (TB); Sandy Hook 12, 13, & 23 May (TB; SL; TB et al.; 3 birds on the last date); Highland Park Meadows, *Middlesex*, NJ 14 May (C. Cronk); Amagansett, *Suffolk*, NY 20 May (J. Giunta); and Tutelo Park, *Tompkins*, NY 22 May (MC). Widespread in the Region, Bald Eagles have only recently made marked gains on Long Island. This spring, at least 16 were seen throughout all four counties on the island (*fide* S. Ausubel), including 2 ads. at Sagaponack, *Suffolk* 21 Apr (PMP); one at Hempstead Lake S.P., *Nassau* 24 Apr (RJK); and a nesting pair along the Carmans River, *Suffolk* (*fide* MMcB).

RAILS THROUGH GULLS

The only King Rails n. of Delaware and Cape May were singles at Great Swamp N.W.R., *Morris*, NJ 25 May (SL), at Great River, *Suffolk*, NY 20-25 May (MMcB, ph.), and at Great Vly, *Ulster*, NY 19 May+ (KMcD et al., m.ob.). Holding over or returning from last fall's incursion, a **Northern Lapwing** was at Bombay Hook 29 Mar (AE, m.ob., ph.), furnishing a fourth Delaware record, and 3 continued from winter at New Egypt, *Ocean*, NJ through 29 Mar (m.ob.). A Piping Plover at Batavia 11 May (JB, m.ob.) was the first for the Niagara Frontier region since 1998 and the first ever record there away from the shore of a great lake. Also at Batavia was an American Avocet 13 Apr (K. Fox, WD'A, m.ob.), the first Apr record for the long-studied Niagara Frontier. Another that same day was very notable at Geneva, *Ontario*, NY 13-14 Apr (JN, m.ob.). For the second consecutive year, a Black-necked Stilt successfully overwintered at Bombay Hook, surviving at least through 10 Apr, when it was joined by 3 new arrivals (FR).

A Curlew Sandpiper in breeding plumage was along Broadkill Beach Rd., *Sussex*, DE 26 May (*fide* AE); another was at Heislerville, NJ 18-25 May (VE, m.ob.). Ruffs were recorded quite widely: one at Bombay Hook N.W.R., *Kent*, DE 30 Mar (AK, TS); 2 at Great River, *Suffolk*, NY 13 Apr–7 May (MMcB, m.ob.); one at Montezuma 10-15 May (TL, ph., m.ob.); and one that moved between Iroquois N.W.R. and nearby Shelby, *Genesee*, NY 18-30 Apr (M&GC, ph., m.ob.). Red Phalarope is an enigmatic species in the Region, occurring predictably and in numbers only well offshore. Elsewhere it is rare, but, unlike most rare birds, seems to occur

Common Nighthawks have declined greatly as breeders in the Region, so it was heartening to learn of ten at Bayonne, Hudson County, New Jersey, including some booming above a discerning audience (here 10 June 2013). *Photograph by Michael Britt.*

Coastal hawkwatches can be good places to observe vagrant Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, such as this one at Cape Henlopen, Sussex County, Delaware 8 May 2013. *Photograph by Chuck M. Fullmer.*

in a bewildering variety of dates and habitats. Singles at Brigantine 8-10 May (MW, R. Fry et al.) and the Meadowlands, *Bergen*, NJ 11 May were clearly grounded migrants, also noted in this timeframe in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Maryland, and Virginia. A Red Phalarope at Avalon 12 Mar (TR) might be interpreted as a wintering bird driven ashore; but how did one make it as far inland as Round Valley Reservoir, *Hunterdon*, NJ as early as 19 Mar (F. Sencher, Sr.)? The earliest Red-necked Phalarope was at Shinnecock Bay, *Suffolk*, NY 21-22 Apr (B. Horwith, M. Horwith, DR, ph., m.ob.), an early date in recent experience.

Numbers of staging Bonaparte's Gulls continued low in n. New Jersey and Long Island. Tom Boyle's counts at the Morgan Avenue mudflats, *Monmouth*, NJ reached only 290 on 2 & 11 Apr, but the site nevertheless attracted 4 Little Gulls 2 Apr–17 May (TB, ph., m.ob.) and 4 Black-headed Gulls 17 Mar–21 Apr (TB, ph; m.ob.). Single Little Gulls were at Villas, *Cape May*, NJ 27-28 Mar (CV, m.ob.) and Heislerville 14 Apr (m.ob.), but all of these pale in comparison with the numbers reported from the Niagara River, *Erie/Niagara*, NY: 10 at Lewiston 17 Mar, 30 there 6 Apr, and **50** at Fort Niagara 12 Apr (WD'A, BPo, VR). In addition to those at Raritan Bay, Black-headed Gulls included 5 others at four sites in New Jersey, about 5 at three sites in Delaware (*fide* FR), 2 at Montauk, *Suffolk*, NY 3 Mar (SSM, PJL, et al.), and one at Buffalo, *Erie*, NY 11 Apr (JB). A second-cycle Thayer's Gull on the Niagara River at Tonawanda, *Erie*, NY 28 Mar was late (JP, ph., WW), and an ad. at Irondequoit Bay, *Monroe*, NY 8 Mar (ST) was even more unexpected. Very rare away from the Niagara River, an ad. **California Gull** was notable at Hamlin, *Monroe*, NY 12 Apr (AG).

OWLS THROUGH THRUSHES

A Great Gray Owl was at Robert Moses S.P., *St. Lawrence*, NY 10 Mar (J. Danko), near where one had been found dead 8 Mar (HvdZ). The only other report was from Tupper Lake 30 Mar–2 Apr (D. Asbjorn, m.ob.). In contrast to the generally negative trend of recent years, this spring brought some good news regarding Common Nighthawks in n. New Jersey. Tom Boyle described a count of 37 over Hazlet, *Monmouth* 16 May as his highest spring count in quite a few years. At nearby Bayonne, *Hudson*, Mike Britt and others found 10 nighthawks over abandoned brownfields, including booming males and a female in audience on the ground. According to Boyle, these sites face high development pressure. Delaware's first **Anna's Hummingbird**, first seen at a feeder in Newark, *New Castle* 23 Oct, remained until 7 Apr, when in striking ad. male plumage (S&DF, *fide* FR). The Rufous Hummingbird that wintered at Palmyra Cove Nature Park, *Burlington*, NJ remained until 6 Apr (A. Carr).

The astonishing run of **Crested Caracara** records in Delaware and New Jersey continued this spring. The bird present around Featherbed Lane W.M.A., *Salem*, NJ during late winter was seen by scores of birders through 11 Apr. Another was present across the Delaware Bay during much of this same interval near Holts Landing, *Sussex*, DE 8-23 Mar (SLy, ph.; C. Gaglione). Many weeks later and at the other end of New Jersey, Linda Mack recorded another from the hawkwatch platform at Sandy Hook 5 May, which was seen again on 7 May by Scott Barnes. A Gyrfalcon continued through 9 Mar at Gilgo, *Suffolk*, NY (S. Blodgett et al.). A Merlin that appeared to be of the prairie subspecies *richardsonii* was at Fort Edwards, *Washington*, NY 22 Apr (RY, TH).

A **Say's Phoebe** at Prospect Park, *Kings*, NY 27 Apr (R. Bass et al., m.ob.) provided a very unusual mid-spring date for a species that has occurred in the Region mostly in fall and winter. Three of the season's 4 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were seen at the mouth of Delaware Bay: one at the Cape Henlopen hawkwatch, *Sussex*, DE 8 May (SG et al.) and singles at Cape May 12 (VE, m.ob.) & 25-26 May (M. Barrow, m.ob.). Farther n., Michele Lomanto found and photographed a Scissor-tailed at Lenape Park, *Union*, NJ 13 May. A Cave Swallow, most unusual in spring, was

SA Migration was actually quite strong during the latter half of Apr, with pronounced waves in the New York City region on 10, 14, 25, and 28 Apr. Many record-early local arrivals were logged throughout the Region—to cite just one example, a Blackpoll Warbler at East Aurora, *Erie*, NY 20 Apr (Nancy Vigyikan, ph.). These are the sorts of things that we've come to expect in recent years. But then the Omega Block developed, impeding the usual eastward zonal weather flow and essentially shutting down migration 29 Apr–9 May. During this period, it was the norm and not in any way exceptional for observers to spend an hour or two afield under an odd combination of fair weather and easterly winds made absolutely eerie by the complete absence of passage migrants. It is difficult to quantify such things rigorously, but Table 1 illustrates the degree to which spring arrivals were suspended during early May in the New York City/Long Island region.

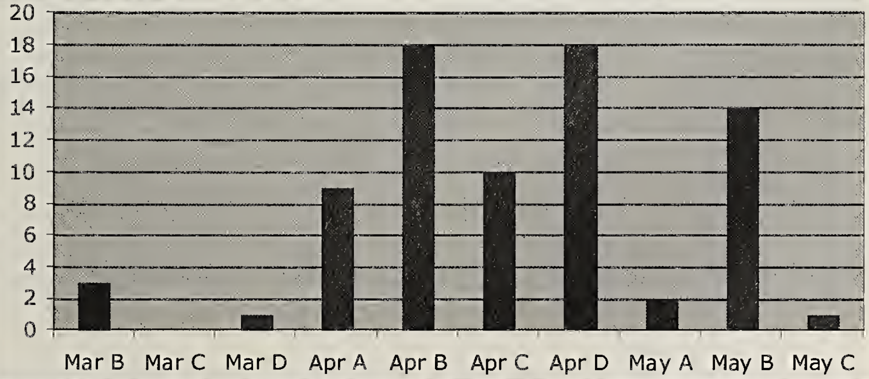

Table 1. Total w eekly arrivals of spring migrant species in the New York City/Long Island area, spring 2013. The first week of May, which in an average spring has many new arrivals, saw just two new species arrive in 2013.

at Cape May 15-17 Mar (J. Dowdell; TR, ph.; m.ob.). A Varied Thrush first detected at Prospect Park, *Kings*, NY 7 Mar (MS) persisted there through 5 Apr (K. Randall, m.ob.).

LONGSPURS THROUGH FINCHES

A **Smith's Longspur** at Shawangunk Grasslands N.W.R., *Ulster*, NY 28-30 Apr (G. Benson, TWB, ph; m.ob.) made just the third record for New York and first in spring. A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Sunset Bay Park, *Oswego*, NY 17 Apr (BR, m.ob., ph.), and a **Townsend's Warbler** was at Cape May 7 Mar (ph. TR). An Audubon's Warbler was a county first at Stewart Park, Ithaca, *Tompkins*, NY 18-25 Apr (JMcG, LS; m.ob.). Two male Yellow-throated Warblers appeared on territory again this spring at Connetquot River S.P., *Suffolk*, NY 13 Apr+, perhaps presaging Long Island's long-awaited first breeding record (AMcI, DR, m.ob.). Indicative of their increasing trend in New York State were at least 9 others on Long Island 8 Apr–26 May, several others on Staten Island and Manhattan, and others farther n. and w. from the Niagara Frontier, Genesee region, Finger Lakes, and Oneida Lake Basin.

Single Lark Sparrows were at Sandy Hook 21-22 May (P. Dexter, m.ob.) and Grass Lake, Alexandria, *Jefferson*, NY 21 May (V. Diehl). A Clay-colored Sparrow at Cape May 2 Mar (K. Prendergast) and a Lincoln's Sparrow at Tavistock, Camden, NJ 31 Mar (S. McConnell) were unseasonable. In New York, Oregon Juncos were at Stanford, *Dutchess* 18-31 Mar (D. Kral); near Wolcott, *Wayne* 5-24 Mar (W&MR); at Ontario, *Wayne* 13 Mar (JW); at South Conesus, *Livingston* 3 Apr (K. Close); at Colden, *Erie* through 9 Apr (J&KL); at Tonawanda, *Erie* 5 Mar (WW); and at Wilson, *Niagara* 8-9 Apr (WD'A).

A Western Tanager visited a Cape May feeder 23-30 Mar; another frequented a feeder in Irving, *Chautauqua*, NY 22-26 Apr (both m.ob., ph.). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at a *Bergen*, NJ feeder 23-24 Mar (S. Seymour) was so far ahead of schedule that it may have wintered in or near the Region. Single Painted Buntings were at Sandy Hook 10 May (G. Eschenbach, L. Matula, N. Kazanjian, ph.), in Franklin Twp., *Somerset*, NJ 27 Mar–4 Apr (K. Reed), and at Ridge, *Suffolk*, NY 4 Apr (M. Hahn). An Indigo Bunting appeared at Lockport, *Niagara*, NY 30 Mar and again 19 Apr (WD'A); this bird was unique in the Region this spring, as the next earliest records were singles in cen. New Jersey at Browns Mills, *Burlington* 13-17 Apr (B. Cunningham) and in e. Long Island at Bridgehampton, *Suffolk* 17 Apr (FQ). Widespread arrival in Delaware and s. New Jersey occurred 27 Apr. Yellow-headed Blackbirds have occurred regularly during early spring in *Salem*, NJ in recent years, and this spring, the area hosted a male and a female 17 Mar–15 Apr (m.ob.). The only others this spring were a female at Cape May 30 Mar (Karl Lukens) and an ad. male at Clinton, *Oneida*, NY 14-22 Mar (MP).

Rare in spring in New Jersey, this Lark Sparrow was found by Patty Dexter at Sandy Hook, Monmouth County 21 May 2013. ***Photograph by Tom Boyle.***

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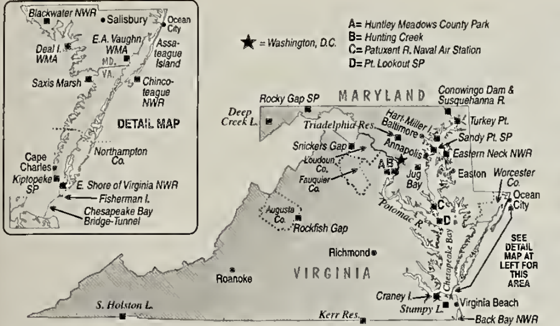
Middle Atlantic


Blackwater NWR
Salisbury
Ocean City
Deal I. WMA
E.A. Vaughn WMA
Assateague Island
MD.
VA.
Saxis Marsh
Chincoteague NWR
DETAIL MAP
Northampton Co.
Cape Charles
Kiptopeke SP
E. Shore of Virginia NWR
Fisherman I.
Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel
★ = Washington, D.C.
A= Huntley Meadows County Park
B= Hunting Creek
C= Patuxent R. Naval Air Station
D= Pt. Lookout SP
Rocky Gap SP
MARYLAND
Conowingo Dam & Susquehanna R.
Deep Creek L.
Triadelphia Res.
Hart-Miller I.
Baltimore
Turkey Pt.
Sandy Pt. SP
Snickers Gap
Annapolis
Eastern Neck NWR
Loudoun Co.
Fauquier Co.
AB
Jug Bay
Easton
Worcester Co.
Ocean City
C
D
Potomac R.
Augusta Co.
Rockfish Gap
Chesapeake Bay
SEE DETAIL MAP AT LEFT FOR THIS AREA
Richmond
Roanoke
VIRGINIA
Craney I.
Stumpy L.
Virginia Beach
Back Bay NWR
S. Holston L.
Kerr Res.

Mark T. Adams
Robert Ostrowski
Arun Bose

Spring precipitation was near normal across the Middle Atlantic, except in Virginia in May, which saw above-normal rainfall, particularly in the western Mountains and Valleys region. March was uniformly cold, particularly in Virginia, where temperatures averaged much below normal. Observers enjoyed above-normal warmth everywhere in April outside southwestern Virginia, where temperatures were near normal. May produced average temperatures, though coastal areas were a bit warmer than average. The season's highlights included Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Tufted Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, Pacific Loon, Black-tailed Godwit, an unprecedented Red Phalarope fallout, Western Tanager, and Bullock's Oriole. In addition to our many individual contributors, we thank Adam D'Onofrio, Dan Perkuchin, Jo Solem, and Bill Williams for their assistance in compiling and interpreting this season's records.

Abbreviations: Back Bay (Back Bay N.W.R., Virginia Beach, VA); C.B.B.T. (Cheaspeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, *Northampton*, VA); C.C.B. (Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary/Virginia Commonwealth University); Chinc. (Chincoteague N.W.R., *Accomack*, VA); College Creek (College Creek Hawkwatch, *James City*, VA); Craney (Craney Island, Portsmouth, VA); Dismal (Dismal Swamp N.W.R., Chesapeake/Suffolk, VA); E.S.V.N.W.R. (Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R., *Northampton*, VA); False Cape (False Cape S.P., Virginia Beach, VA).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAILS

Continuing the pattern of increasing occurrence for this species throughout the East since the mid-1990s, 2 **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** visited Kempsville, Virginia Beach, VA 12-13 May (ph. G&BY). Very rare in Maryland after Mar, a Ross's Goose was a nice find at Crownsville Containment Ponds, *Anne Arundel*, MD 15-16 Apr (DHa, m.ob.). Another late Ross's was discovered in s. *Albemarle*, VA 1-3 May, a first county record (TMD, PB, MS, SMi). The latest Brant was at Back Bay 24 May (RLAk). Four imm. Trumpeter Swans at Violette's Lock, *Montgomery* 17 Mar (DCz) made only the second Maryland report since 2010. The putative Tundra Swan × Trumpeter Swan hybrid continued from winter at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge, *Prince George's*, MD until 9 Mar (BWi, m.ob.). Single male Eurasian Wigeons were at Craney 14 & 28 Mar (BW, DY et al.) and at Chinc. 19-20 Mar (DY; ESB); another stayed unusually late at Deal Island W.M.A. *Somerset*, MD 16 Mar–23 Apr (ML, m.ob.). Though more typically reported in winter, single Eurasian Teal were at Chinc. 24 Mar (AB) and at Craney 28 Mar (BW et al.); even later singles were at Oxbow Lake, *Anne Arundel*, MD 2 Apr (NR) and North Beach, *Calvert*, MD 15-16 Apr (LSt, JT, m.ob.). Continuing from winter, the female **Tufted Duck** was last seen at Kent Narrows, *Queen Anne's*, MD 23 Mar (MSc, m.ob.).

A rare and local transient and winter resident along the immediate coast and in the lower Bay, 5 Common Eiders were off the C.B.B.T. 10 Mar (HTA et al.); at Cape Charles, VA, second-year male was noted 8 May (ESB). Sixteen Surf Scoters and 39 Common Goldeneyes made an impressive count on the James River at Ragged Island W.M.A., *Isle of Wight*, VA 5 Mar (NF). A Surf Scoter at Bells Lane, Staunton, *Augusta*, VA 2-3 May (ph. AL, PL, m.ob.) made a first county spring record. A molting drake Surf Scoter lingered late at Craney 22 May (BW et al.). Continuing from the winter, the female **Barrow's Goldeneye** on the Choptank River, *Dorchester/Talbot*, MD stayed through 30 Mar (JCu, JH, m.ob.). Rare in late spring, a female Common Merganser was notable on the James River, Richmond, VA 25 May (AB); such late birds should be monitored for signs of nesting. The latest Ruddy Duck was at Byrd Park, Richmond 22 May (AB).

A female Ring-necked Pheasant at Sherando, *Augusta* 25 Apr (ph. RT) furnished the first county record since Jun 1998; the species is still occasionally released in Virginia, though no self-sustaining population persists. A Ruffed Grouse was seen in *Frederick*, MD 29 May (GM). In the recent atlas project, this species was not confirmed as breeding on the Piedmont. A rare transient and winter visitor with only about a dozen accepted Virginia records, numerous observers enjoyed a **Pacific Loon** swimming with Common Loons at a small urban pond at Sherwood Lakes, Virginia Beach 14-23 Mar (EE, m.ob.). The 41 Pied-billed Grebes at Back Bay/False Cape 15 Mar (DH et al.) established a recent spring high count. Some 180 Horned Grebes were on the James River near Ragged Island, W.M.A., *Isle of Wight* 5 Mar (NF). Three Red-necked Grebes were at Yorktown, *York* 13 Mar (MB), 3 at C.B.B.T. 9-21 Mar (HTA, m.ob.), and singles were at Hains Point, D.C. 11 Mar (HM) and Fort Armistead S.P., *Baltimore*, MD 18 Mar (JW).

Increasingly findable in e. Virginia, an Anhinga that wintered at Lake Wright, Norfolk was reported through the season. Another was photographed at Belmont, *York* 4 May (AH, BPe, GG); a flyover passed College Creek 19 May (BT); and yet another was at Harwood's Mill Reservoir, *York* 24 May (DY), a site where nesting has been confirmed in previous years. An American White Pelican at Willis Wharf, *Northampton* 17 May (KG, THod, RT) made the sole Virginia report. A rare Mountains and Valleys spring transient, a Snowy Egret at Bells Lane, Staunton 18-19 Apr (AL, VL, BTe, EC) made just the fourth county spring record and the first since 1989. Two second *Augusta* spring records came from Stuart's Draft: an ad. Little Blue Heron 23 Apr (VL) and a Tricolored Heron 7 May (ph. VL, BTe, PN, m.ob.). A Tricolored at Lickinghole Creek Reservoir, *Albemarle* 12 Apr (PBr, PM, *fide* SMi) also made a second county record. The 17 Cattle Egrets that flew over Shirley Plantation, *Charles City*, VA 7 May were noteworthy (AB, AD, EO). A Cattle Egret in *Rockbridge* 8 May (DR) was far from this species' usual Virginia haunts and made a first county record. While imm.

During a routine check of local ponds in Virginia Beach, Virginia, Elisa Enders turned up this Pacific Loon in the Sherwood Lakes neighborhood west of Back Bay 14 March 2013; the last report of the bird with details came 23 March. There are just nine previous records for the Virginia coast. *Photograph by Karen Kearney.*

White Ibis are expected every fall in Maryland, ads. are rare during any season: one was at Point Lookout S.P., *St. Mary's* 28 Apr (ML), and 2 were at Skimmer Island, *Worcester*, MD 24 May (JFi). Single White-faced Ibis were discovered among large Glossy Ibis flocks in *Worcester* on three occasions 12 Apr–26 May (m.ob.); one was joined by a Glossy Ibis × White-faced Ibis hybrid at South Point, *Worcester* 12 Apr (DCz). This hybrid combination has been reported on the Virginia coast and is otherwise unknown in the Region (but likely overlooked).

College Creek ended its seventeenth consecutive spring season 31 May, counting 2352 raptors. Though well above the record of 1811 raptors set in 2011, most of the increase was due to a very large Turkey Vulture flight. A Swallow-tailed Kite at Sherwood Lakes, Virginia Beach 23 Mar (TW, DF) was quite early. The only Maryland Swallow-tailed Kite was at North Point S.P., *Baltimore* 13-20 Apr (FJ, m.ob.). Three ad. Mississippi Kites were at E.S.V.N.W.R. 25 May (AL). Sixteen were tallied at the Fort Smallwood S.P. hawkwatch, *Anne Arundel* 9-29 May (SRi, m.ob.), well exceeding last year's total of one! A Black Rail responded to playback, yielding a first county record for surprised observers at the University of Maryland Central Farm, *Howard*, MD 18 May (BO et al.). King Rail reports included a single calling along Carter's Mill Rd., *Henrico* 7 & 14 Apr (AB, LB, JF) and one seen at Hog Island W.M.A., *Surry*, VA 9 May (AD).

PLOVERS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

A strong count of 2203 Semipalmated Plovers came from Chinc. 17 May (JBe, JL, CM). A Piping Plover at Grandview Beach, Hampton 8 Mar (R&GH, M&JA) was nearly two weeks ahead of the species' typical 20 Mar arrival. The 2 American Oystercatchers at Roaring Point, *Wicomico*, MD 7 May (SDy) made just the second county record in the past two decades. Rare inland, a Black-necked Stilt was at Shirley Plantation, *Charles City* 18-19 May (ph. AB, JF, TH, AD). Stilts were reported from five coastal Virginia sites 13 Apr+, with a high count of 17 birds at Chinc. 27 Apr (KM). Seven pairs were at Craney 30 May, including three pairs that appeared to be nesting (RB et al.). Up to 2 Black-necked Stilts at Messick in Poquoson, VA 29 Apr–6 May (ph. V&GB, AH) were unprecedented at this location. For the third consecutive year, Black-necked Stilts were at Swan Creek, *Anne Arundel* 18 May (SA et al.), a dredge site 13.7 km from this species' breeding grounds on Hart-Miller Island; another individual was inland at Allens Fresh, *Charles*, MD 11 May (KC, JG). American Avocets were at Chinc. through 5 May (MLy), with a high count of 3 birds on 30 Mar (MLa). Avocets were at Craney 27 Mar–9 May (m.ob.), with a peak of 4 birds on 15 Apr (RB et al.).

An Eastern Willet was seen and heard in *James City* 29 Apr (BT); this is perhaps the westernmost record of this subspecies in the state. Four Upland Sandpipers along White Marsh Rd., Suffolk, VA 14 Apr (ph. BB et al.) were excellent finds for this increasingly rare species. The ongoing C.C.B. Whimbrel migration studies counted **7260** leaving Boxtree, *Northampton* 16 May–1 Jun, with a peak of 2492 birds on 27 May, when Whimbrels departed at 850+ birds per hour (ALa); these birds fly overnight to Toronto, ON. The season's avian celebrity was a reliable **Black-tailed Godwit** that typically foraged with Marbled Godwits and delighted scores of observers at Chinc. 11 Mar–28 Apr (ph. DR, AD, m.ob.). This was likely the same bird reported at Chinc. 25-26 Feb, as well as in Aug–Nov 2012. A Marbled Godwit at Back Cove, Poquoson 13 & 15 Apr (GG et al., AH) was a notable find on the Bay's w. shore, where the species is rare at any season. Seven Willets and 13 Ruddy Turnstones were counted at Goodwin Islands, *York* 17 May (EW), establishing new local peak counts for both species. Two Wilson's Snipe at Mainland Farm, *James City* 18 May set a new local late date (BW). The annual C.C.B. Atlantic barrier islands shorebird surveys tallied a peak of 6126 Red Knots on 29 May; 3930 of these birds were on Cedar Island, *Accomack* (BWa, BT). The highest reported Semipalmated Sandpiper (9213) and White-rumped Sandpiper (21) counts were at Chinc. 24 & 30 May, respectively (JB, CM). The C.C.B. 13 May coastal barrier islands shorebirds survey tallied 12,393 Dunlins (BWa, BTr). A male Wilson's Phalarope was at Craney 15 May (BW et al.); a Red-necked Phalarope was there 22 May (BT, RB, BW, DY).

Those who ventured to Chinc. for the Black-tailed Godwit also sporadically noted up to 2 ad. Black-headed Gulls 20 Mar–4 Apr (ph. ESB, m.ob.). The Black-headed Gull at Hunt Valley Towne Center, *Baltimore* continued until 29 Mar (RR, m.ob.); another was at Skimmer Island, *Worcester* 20 Apr (THou, KJ), making only the third coastal record in Maryland in as many years. A Little Gull was discovered standing on the beach at Sandy Point S.P., *Anne Arundel* 7 May (DHa). Rare anywhere in Maryland, but even more so on the Piedmont, a Franklin's Gull was an excellent find in a field w. of Rte. 15, *Frederick* 31 Mar (JM, m.ob.). Typical spring Lesser Black-backed Gull totals included 209 at Back Bay/False Cape 5 Mar (RBr, DLH, KK) and 62

While sorting through gulls in Frederick County, Maryland, Jim Moore found this adult Franklin's Gull 31 March 2013, the first confirmed record for the county. *Photograph by Jim Moore.*

at Chinc. 16 Mar (JB, CM). A first-cycle Glaucous Gull was at Virginia Beach 29 Mar (RLAn). A second-cycle Glaucous Gull seen from College Creek 9 Apr (BW, BT) made a first Apr record for the hawkwatch.

A Least Tern at Poquoson 10 Apr (DY) and a Sandwich Tern at Grandview Nature Preserve, Hampton 17 Apr (DY) were a few days ahead of their respective early dates. A group of birders attempting a Big Day encountered a flock of 62 Common Terns, 4 **Arctic Terns**, and 6 Common/Arctic Terns at Deep Creek Lake, *Garrett*, MD 11 May (BH et al.); a single **Arctic Tern** was at Violette's Lock, *Montgomery*, MD 9 May (DCz, MAT). Three **Royal Terns**, exceedingly rare this far inland, were at Dutch Gap Conservation Area, *Chesterfield* 1 Apr (EO). Two Parasitic Jaegers were good seawatch finds at Chinc. 4 May (AD, TT).

A **Common Murre** in breeding plumage was the highlight of a pelagic out of Ocean City, *Worcester*, MD 2 Mar (ph. MH et al.). Razorbills continued their strong showing with a from-shore record **104** off Back Bay 25 Mar (RLAk et al.); the last reported were 4 off Back Bay 4 Apr (KR). A **Razorbill** upriver on the James River, Hampton 14 Mar (JBe, KL) was extraordinary. With very little grassland or open marsh in the city, a Short-eared Owl was a good find at Kenilworth Park, D.C. 30 Mar (SL). Five Short-eared Owls made a rare midday sight at Swoope, *Augusta* 11 Mar (ph. MF). The imm. female Rufous Hummingbird banded at Ripley Rd., *York* 10 Feb was last reported 26 Mar (PC). The long-staying first-year male Rufous at Chester, *Chesterfield*, VA departed 2 Apr (ph. JK, m.ob.). An imm. female Rufous banded at Suffolk 9 Mar (BP, *fide* DM) had been present since late Nov 2012. The last of at least 3 *Selasphorus* wintering in Virginia Beach was present through 7 Apr (RH).

SA Strong easterly winds and heavy rains associated with a low-pressure system (and a high-pressure block to the n. of the Region) brought an extraordinary 23 Red-necked and **14 Red Phalaropes** onshore to the Coastal Plain and Piedmont 7-9 May (Table 1). Although scattered single birds or handfuls have appeared in coastal areas in the past (typically at Craney or Chinc.), such a widespread fallout has not previously been documented in the Region. In *Prince Edward*, VA, for instance the only previous county Red Phalarope record is a 1920 specimen, and it has been 56 years since a Red Phalarope had been seen in *Rockbridge*, VA. Modern communication clearly helped; perhaps half of the birds in Table 1 were discovered by people who had received word of the fallout via state listserves, eBird, Facebook, or other social media. Regional birders very rarely observe Red Phalaropes in breeding plumage, so this opportunity was missed by few avid birders during this brief, three-day window of time.

Table 1. Fallout of Red Phalaropes and Red-necked Phalaropes in Virginia and Maryland, 7-9 May 2013.

Date	State	Location	County	Red Phalarope	Red-necked Phalarope	Observers	Notes
7-9 May	VA	Mill Creek Lake	Amherst	6		ph., vt. MJ, FD, m.ob.	
7-8 May	VA	Mill Creek Lake	Amherst		1	ph., vt. MJ, FD, m.ob.	
7-May	VA	Burke Lake	Fairfax		1	FA	
7-May	VA	King Family Vineyard	Albemarle		2	PBr, *fide* LS	one breeding plumage, one nonbreeding plumage
7-May	VA		se. Prince Edward		3	MS	only previous county record is a 1920 specimen
7-May	VA	Shirley Plantation	Charles City	2	1	ph. AB, AD, EO, JF	all females in breeding plumage
7-May	VA	Stuarts Draft	Augusta	1		ph. AL, vt. MG, m.ob.	only previous county record Nov 1984
7-May	VA	Stuarts Draft (4 locations)	Augusta		8	ph. AL, vt. MG, m.ob.	
8-May	VA	Stuarts Draft	Augusta		1	DPe et al.	
8-May	VA		Rockbridge	1		DR	third county record; previously fall 1940, fall 1957
8-May	VA	Cape Charles harbor	Northampton	2	5	ESB, ALa	
8-9 May	MD	Lilypons Water Gardens	Frederick	1		DS, m.ob.	
9-May	MD	Swan Harbor Farm	Harford	1		JEm	
9-May	VA	Stuarts Draft	Augusta		1	BTe	

WOODPECKERS THROUGH FINCHES

C.C.B. biologists continued their periodic survey of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker population at the Nature Conservancy's Piney Grove Preserve in Sussex, VA. Exactly **51** were counted this spring, including a breeding male in his thirteenth season at the Preserve. Red-cockaded Woodpeckers of this age are rare, and this particular bird has been instrumental in the breeding success of the Piney Grove population: his progeny have pioneered three new breeding sites on the Preserve (*fide* MW).

A singing Alder Flycatcher was detected from the parking lot at the 42nd St. entrance of James River Park System, Richmond 21 May (AB). An exceptionally early Eastern Kingbird was at College Creek 9 Mar (JC). A late Philadelphia Vireo, a rare spring transient, was singing in a yard on Old Compton Rd., *Henrico* 28 May (ABr). The earliest Purple Martin, a female, was in *Charles City* 2 Mar (SR et al.). A Purple Martin at College Creek 9 Mar tied the local early date (BT). A Cliff Swallow at Jug Bay was early at *Anne Arundel* 4 Apr (DB). Continuing from the limited irruption the previous winter, 2 Black-capped Chickadees were seen at a private residence, *Cecil*, MD 7 Apr (SM). The season's latest Red-breasted Nuthatch was at a Governor's Land, *James City* feeder until 15 May (CO). Late for the Coastal Plain, a Brown Creeper was singing at Charles Branch Stream Valley Park,

A rare, if apparently increasing, species in Maryland, this Common Murre was nicely photographed off Ocean City, Worcester County 2 March 2013. *Photograph by Mark Hoffman.*

Prince George's, MD 19 May (ML). A very late Winter Wren sang at the 42nd St. entrance, James River Park System, Richmond 22-23 May (AB, LB).

Seven Brewster's Warblers were noted in Maryland 1-30 May; 4 were on potential breeding grounds, while the other 3 were migrants. A Swainson's Warbler, rare on the Coastal Plain outside the Great Dismal Swamp, was near Boykins, *Southampton* 27 May (NF); this county probably holds more pairs of this species than is currently known. Six Swainson's Warblers along Railroad Ditch 8 May (RLAk et al.). made the highest Dismal Swamp spring count. A singing Orange-crowned Warbler and a singing Mourning Warbler were excellent finds at Reedy Creek, James River Park System, Richmond 24 Apr (AB) and 22 May (DP), respectively. A Clay-colored Sparrow showed well alongside migrant White-crowned Sparrows at Trout Run W.T.P., *Garrett* 11 May (BH et al.). The Lark Sparrow that wintered in a residential *Chesterfield* yard was last sighted 3 Mar (JE). A lingering Savannah Sparrow was notable at Warhill Sports Complex, *James City* 19 May (BW). Though formerly an annual migrant, a Henslow's Sparrow along Jennings Chapel Rd. made only the third county record since 1962, *Howard*, MD 11 May+ (TF et al.). A Nelson's Sparrow was a nice find at Queens Creek, *York* 11 & 25 May (BW); 2 were at Seaford, *York* 20 May (DY).

The male **Western Tanager** that returned to Settler's Mill, *James City* last fall for the fourth in the past five years remained through 20 Mar (BW, AW). A female Painted Bunting at Chesapeake 5 Apr (ph. BM) was followed the next day by a male at the same location. The season's only report, an imm. male Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Jacob's Farm, *St. Mary's*, MD 31 Mar (BH et al.). The Rusty Blackbird count of 150 birds at Dismal 26 Mar (RLAk, RH) included a flock of 100. Two female Rusty Blackbirds at Ann's Cove, *Accomack* 19 May (ph. LG) were five days beyond that species' previous 14 May extreme late date. The **Bullock's Oriole** first seen 11 Feb continued until 26 Apr at a private residence in *Harford* (DK, m.ob.).

The northern finch invasion that began last fall continued into spring, with 10 Red Crossbills, some possibly of Type 10, in Cape Charles, *Northampton* 14 Apr (ESB). A female Red Crossbill in the Tabb section of *York* 23 Feb–7 Apr (ph. JHi, PD; SH et al.) made just a fourth local record. Red Crossbills were reported in Maryland until 19 May, while White-winged Crossbills continued until 22 May (m.ob.). A female Common Redpoll visited a *Buchanan* yard feeder 23 & 26 Mar (RM), a first county record. A Common Redpoll visited a feeder at a private residence, *Baltimore* 2-6 Apr (JD). Scattered Pine Siskin records continued through the spring, the last a single in a *York* yard 22 May (DY). A green-morph Pine Siskin made a brief yard visit at Great Falls, *Fairfax* 31 Mar (RW). Up to 7 Evening Grosbeaks frequented a feeder at Tormentor Lake, *Isle of Wight* 18 Mar–25 Apr (TC, SD, DY). The only Evening Grosbeak reported in Maryland visited a feeder in *Carroll*, MD 17 Apr (RFR).

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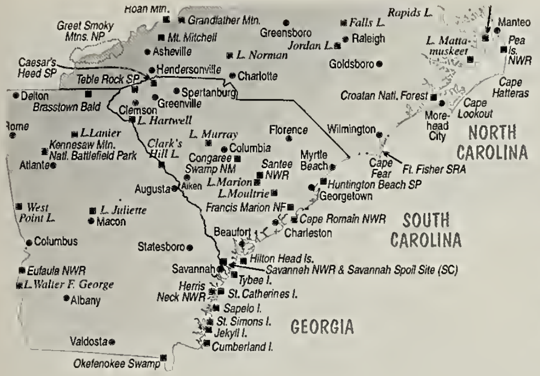
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Rapids L.
Manteo
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Jordan L.
L. Mattamuskeet
Pea Is. NWR
Asheville
L. Norman
Goldsboro
Caesar's Heed SP
Hendersonville
Charlotte
Teble Rock SP
Cape Hatteras
Delton
Brasstown Bald
Spertanburg
Greenville
Clemson
Croatan Natl. Forest
Cape Lookout
Morehead City
L. Hartwell
Rome
L.Lanier
L. Murray
Florence
Wilmington
NORTH CAROLINA
Kennesaw Mtn. Natl. Battlefield Park
Clark's Hill L.
Columbia
Atlante
Congaree Swamp NM
Santee NWR
Myrtle Beach
Cape Fear
Ft. Fisher SRA
Augusta
Aiken
L.Marion
L.Moultrie
Huntington Beach SP
Georgetown
West Point L.
L. Juliette
Macon
Francis Marion NF
Cepe Romain NWR
SOUTH CAROLINA
Beaufort
Charleston
Columbus
Statesboro
Hilton Head Is.
Savannah
Savanneh NWR & Savannah Spoil Site (SC)
Eufaula NWR
L.Walter F. George
Tybee I.
Herris Neck NWR
St. Catherines I.
Albany
Sapelo I.
St. Simons I.
Jekyll I.
GEORGIA
Valdosta
Cumberland I.
Okefenokee Swamp

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No sooner had a blasé winter handed the reins over to spring than a frosty March blew in to steal its thunder. Stiff, cold, northwesterly winds in the first few days of the month were possibly connected to the appearance of Lapland Longspurs in South Carolina and McCown's Longspurs in southern Georgia. Several cold fronts dipped into the Southern Atlantic during the month, producing lines of rainstorms and even a few snow events at higher elevations, especially along the backbone of the Southern Appalachians: an amazing 99 cm (39 inches) of snow fell on the summit of Mount Mitchell, North Carolina!

April brought more balanced temperatures, but thermometers dipped again in early May. "Cooler than average" was undoubtedly the theme of the season, with patterns finally normalizing by the end of May. A number of noteworthy shorebird fallouts correlated with a slow-moving weather system that tracked across the Region during the first week of May, dumping up to 13 cm (5 inches) of rain locally across parts of northern Georgia and western North Carolina and producing several severe storms. Dry conditions continued to abate: the Carolinas had eliminated all areas of drought by the end of April, and a very wet May all but saturated the last stubborn patch along Georgia's coast.

Abbreviations: A.I.S.S. (Andrews Island Spoil Site, *Glynn*, GA); A.W.M.A. (Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area, *McIntosh*, GA); L.S.S.I. (Little St. Simons Island, *Glynn*, GA).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

Maxima of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks included 82 at A.W.M.A. 25 Apr (PWS) and 86 in *Lee*, GA 22 May (WS), quite impressive for an inland locale. Reported from all three states, the species continues to expand, predominantly into Georgia's coastal plain but also northward along the Atlantic coast. A Greater White-fronted Goose remained throughout the period in *Muscogee*, GA (m.ob.). The southernmost reported Tundra Swans remained at A.W.M.A. until 4 Mar (SB, BB) and at Bear Island W.M.A., SC 16 Mar (LS); the latest Common Eider sighting was a northbound imm. in a flock of scoters at Atlantic Beach, NC 21 Apr (JFu et al.). An imm. Harlequin Duck from late winter remained at Fort Macon, NC 17 Mar (DB et al.). Exceptionally abundant wintering Black Scoters lingered well into spring: observations continued late May+ from the Georgia/Florida border n. to the Carolinas, the last being 7 at L.S.S.I. 26 May (NL), though reports continued into the summer season. A female Long-tailed Duck at Edisto Beach, SC 19 Mar (JCo) provided the only confirmed report. Secretive, local breeders in our Region, a pair of Hooded Mergansers with 3 young were found on University Lake, *Orange*, NC 11 May (GT, MM); nesters were also located in *Guilford*, NC in mid-May (BG). Leftover Common Mergansers of note included an ad. female at Carter's Lake, GA 24 Mar (JFF); the ad. male of a pair still in Mount Pleasant, SC 27 Apr (SSc); and 3 on Lake Adger, NC 26 May (PB), quite late for the Region and conceivable local breeders. A Pacific Loon was still at Masonboro Inlet, NC 18 Mar (JA, m.ob.). The only Red-necked Grebe reported was in *Georgetown*, SC 16 Mar (JW, AHa et al.).

The Gulf Stream waters off Hatteras, NC lived up to their reputation for producing a great diversity of seabirds, at least 4 each of Fea's and Herald Petrels 22-31 May, with the first **Bermuda Petrel** in several years seen 3 Jun (BPI). Notable records of Manx Shearwater included one off Fort Macon, NC 24 Mar (JFu, JFe), 5 off Hatteras, NC 1 & 6 Apr (VK), one off Charleston, SC 25 Apr (ND), and one found dead at Wrightsville Beach, NC 14 Apr (HP). An ad. Red-billed Tropicbird was again at the Salt Pond at Cape Point, NC 15 May (SSp); ads. turned up at the same site in the springs of 2009 and 2011. Two young Red-billed Tropicbirds were noted off Hatteras 22 May (BPI). Single Magnificent Frigatebirds were reported at Jekyll Island, GA 30 Apr (DM), at L.S.S.I. 18 May (ph. AS), and at Bodie Island, NC 29 May (JLe). An injured Brown Booby was on the beach at Shallotte Inlet, NC 13 Apr (ph. TP). The perennial Great Cormorant was last observed at Lake Walter F. George, GA 2 Mar (NF, JM). The second for Georgia, a **Würdemann's Heron** (Great Blue Heron × Great White Heron cross) was found on Skidaway Island 20 Apr (ph. MLK, m.ob.). A single **White-faced Ibis** at Mattamuskeet N.W.R., NC 25 Feb (SW) led to the discovery of 4-5 in a flock of Glossy Ibis 12-13 Mar (SC); at least 4 were still present 8 Apr (RD).

Swallow-tailed Kites have been arriving earlier in recent years, exemplified by 3 in *Dorchester*, SC 5 Mar (DF et al.); long-anticipated confirmation of breeding in North Carolina was finally provided by a nest spotted during an aerial survey on the Cape Fear River, *Bladen* 7 May (DA, JC, CS). An imm. Golden Eagle was remarkably late on Brawley Mountain, GA 17 May (GB). A striking light-morph **Short-tailed Hawk** provided the Region's first record at Hinesville, *Liberty*, GA 27 Apr–5 May (NJ, m.ob.). A Black Rail was observed in a known breeding area at Bear Island W.M.A., SC 18 May (PF, PN); singles were also detected at Mackay Island N.W.R., NC late Apr–1 May (RG); a former annual breeding site in *Greene*, GA was unoccupied for the third consecutive spring (PWS). A Limpkin provided the first Georgia record in six years in *Jenkins* 16 Apr (ph. AH). Waves of Sandhill Cranes totaling 8600 birds over *Macon*, GA represented a new state high count 4 Mar (JFl).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

The **Northern Lapwing** found in winter in *Person*, NC was last reported 8 Mar (DH, m.ob.). A Snowy Plover was noted again on Bear Island, NC 18 Feb (EC et al.). An impressive total of 385 American Avocets topped any previous state high count at A.I.S.S. 4 Apr

The status of Long-eared Owl in the Southeast is poorly understood. This bird was found roosting in a keen birder's backyard in Athens, Georgia on 9 March 2013. *Photograph by Krista Gridley.*

This apparent Black-capped Chickadee was along Clingman's Dome Road, North Carolina on 20 April 2013, one of the last pockets in the Southern Appalachians where "pure" Black-cappeds may be found. *Photograph by Scott Winton.*

(GK). The Whimbrel named "Postel" returned to L.S.S.I. 24 Apr; its transmitter tracked its journey from high Arctic breeding grounds to Brazil for the winter. Two additional Whimbrels, "Cabretta" and "McKay," received transmitters on St. Simons, Island GA 13 May (all TK). A noteworthy high count of 75 Stilt Sandpipers was recorded at Bear Island W.M.A., SC 15 May (KM). Rarely encountered in spring, a Baird's Sandpiper was in *Baker*, GA 11 May (ph. WS). Regionwide, there were four reports of single Wilson's Phalaropes. Red-necked Phalarope reports totaled nine; most involved individuals grounded by heavy storms during the first week of May, with 3 in *Guilford*, NC 7 May (HL, JS). The highest count was offshore, with 29 off Hatteras, NC 18 May (BPI).

First-cycle Black-headed Gulls were spotted at Nags Head, NC 26 Mar and flying over Kitty Hawk Bay, NC 7 Apr (both JLe). Also reported twice were Little Gulls: an ad. at Masonboro Inlet, NC 9 Mar (DC, KH) and a first-cycle bird at Atlantic Beach, NC 31 Mar (JFu, JFe). There were only 3 Glaucous Gulls reported Regionwide, all singles. An ad. Sooty Tern was observed over James Island, SC 26 May (DF), while 2 cruised by Kiawah Island, SC 30 May (AG). Roseate Tern sightings included one on the beach near New River Inlet, NC 1 May (JAb et al.) and 3 (one with bands) loafing with Common Terns at the Rachel Carson N.A., NC 28 May (JFu et al.). Rarely documented inland in spring, 6 Common Terns were a surprise at Lake Lanier, GA 18 May (JFF). In addition to those seen on pelagic trips off Hatteras, NC, an Arctic Tern was found at the Rachel Carson N.A., NC 28 May (JFu et al.).

White-winged Doves were at Americus, GA 25 Apr (ph. PH) and at Lawrenceville, GA 1-2 May (ph. RBr). Much farther n. than typical for the species was a Common Ground-Dove in *Bartow*, GA 18 May (ph. J&AH). Normally furtive, Black-billed Cuckoos proved uncharacteristically cooperative: there were 24 widespread sightings, several involving multiple birds. By contrast, a **Long-eared Owl**—perhaps the epitome of obscurity in our Region—became Georgia's first since 2005 when it fortuitously roosted in an experienced birder's backyard in Athens, *Clarke* 9 Apr (KG). At least 3 Northern Saw-whet Owls were heard advertising for mates at Devil's Courthouse along the Blue Ridge Parkway, NC 26 Apr (JSm). Several hummingbirds among winter's multitudes lingered longer than expected, providing a number of significant records. A Black-chinned established a record-late departure date in Macon, *Bibb*, GA 12 Apr (JFer); Calliopes remained in *Union*, NC 13 Mar (JA, BL) and in *Cobb*, GA 26 Mar (BZ); an imm. male Broad-tailed was documented in *Coweta*, GA 3 Apr (b. RT); the Region's last reported Rufous was a female in *Cherokee*, GA 15 Apr (JK); and Georgia's fourth **Buff-bellied Hummingbird** was last seen on Skidaway Island 20 Mar (RW).

SA Spring delivered ominous indications of large-scale mortality among the throngs of alcids and other seabirds that had surged southward in extraordinary numbers throughout the winter. The high count of apparently healthy Dovekies was 100 recorded off Hatteras, NC 1 Apr (VK). However, reports of wrecked Dovekies were much more common: one on the beach at Mason Inlet, NC 11 Mar (DH); one at Wrightsville Beach, NC 15-22 Mar (MH, DD, m.ob.); one at Bird Island N.A., NC 6 Apr (DHa); an exhausted bird on Tybee Island, GA 7 Apr (ph. SF), the state's first since 1950; one at Myrtle Beach, SC 8 Apr (ST); **24** moribund birds at Atlantic Beach, NC 19-21 Apr (JFu, RB); and one on the beach at Hatteras, NC 20 Apr (JG). The last Dovekie was reported quite late, on the ocean 16 km se. of the Cape Lookout lighthouse, NC 8 May (NB).

Even more numerous were Razorbills: offshore, near shore, on the beach, even inside inlets and tidal backwaters—too many sightings to list separately. Of particular significance were up to 12 inside Mansboro Inlet, NC 1 Mar–9 Apr (m.ob.); 100 diving close to shore at Cape Point, NC 2 Mar (JLe); up to 9 along the jetties at Huntington Beach S.P., SC 2-16 Mar (m.ob.); a moribund bird at North Topsail Beach, NC 5 Mar (ph. DHar); 100+ at Cape Lookout Bight, NC 10 Mar (KR); one at Hunting Island S.P., SC 13 Mar (TH); 161 off Fort Macon, NC 18 Mar and **300** there 24 Mar (both JFu et al.); 20 inside Beaufort Inlet, NC 17 Mar (JFu et al.); a dead bird on Jekyll Island, GA 13 Apr (EH et al.); and a moribund bird on Coquina Beach, NC 3 May (BA).

FALCONS THROUGH WARBLERS

The Atlanta Falcons of the NFL couldn't have selected a more apt mascot: pairs of Peregrine Falcons now nest on office buildings from downtown Atlanta, to Buckhead, even as far n. as Dunwoody. The iconic pair on the downtown Suntrust Plaza building was nesting by mid-Mar, and for the first time a live webcam was set up to monitor their activities (JO, TK). Remarkably, a young female—banded as a hatchling in New Hampshire—that had unsuccessfully nested in Atlanta in summer 2012 appeared this spring on a building in downtown Charlotte, NC. Now in her second year, she found a mate and successfully fledged 2 young during the period (RC, m.ob.).

An Ash-throated Flycatcher was reported from *Laurens*, GA 13 Apr (MC). Two wintering Western Kingbirds were last seen on Hutchinson Island, GA 14 Mar (SCal). North of the Georgia/South Carolina border, spring Gray Kingbirds are ordinarily considered overshoots, e.g., one at Tibwin Plantation, *Charleston*, SC 13 May (FA et al.). A pair of Gray Kingbirds must have raised birders' eyebrows at Carolina Beach, *New Hanover*, NC 27-29 May (ph. MK, AGil, m.ob.); though within known nest dates, the birds were not reported again. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers returned to several breeding sites: a pair in *Greenville*, SC 18 Apr (CS); one in *Anderson*, SC 7 May (MJ); a pair at Sam Smith Park, *Bartow*, GA 20 Apr+ (m.ob.); and one on East Valley Rd., *Bartow*, GA 24 May (PMa). One wayward Scissor-tailed ran out of real estate on Champney Island, GA 5 May (ph. CG, FS). A Loggerhead Shrike was observed capturing and impaling a female Bobolink in *Gordon*, GA 17 May (DI)—a remarkable feat, considering the weight of the prey was well over half that of the predator!

A Black-capped Chickadee at Clingman's Dome, *Swain*, NC 20 Apr (ph. SW) was in a small pocket where the species is still believed to be genetically pure; intriguingly, a chicka-

One of four in the Southern Atlantic region in winter/spring 2013, this handsome male Bullock's Oriole was a two-day wonder at Valdosta, Georgia on 5 (here) and 6 April 2013. *Photograph by Brad Bergstrom.*

dee using typical Black-capped vocalizations (both song and scolding) was near Yellow Mountain Gap, *Avery*, NC 10 May (Chris Kelly), an area where Black-cappeds are considered extirpated. The very large and distinctly coastal influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches during winter resulted in several noteworthy records: 30 on St. Catherines Island, GA 20 Apr (m.ob.); one near the Florida border at Valdosta, *Lowndes*, GA 9 May (MS); and one still loitering at Bodie Island, NC 24 May (THol). Although very local, Brown Creepers are well established as breeding birds in Georgia's ne. Blue Ridge Mountains, represented this season by 5 singing and calling in the Coleman River Wilderness, *Rabun*, GA 27 May (KB, RBy). Golden-crowned Kinglets share a similar breeding status in the state: though suggestive of a local resident, one in the same area 5 May (m.ob.) may have been a late migrant. A Hermit Thrush at Henderson Park, GA 12 May (PMc) provided the latest departure record in the state, with the exception of an obviously injured bird in late May 1993.

Arriving on the heels of strong nw. winds were 2-4 Lapland Longspurs at Dobbins Farm, *Anderson*, SC 2-4 Mar (BBa, CM). The Region's first record of **McCown's Longspur** was made at the same time: 2 at a sod farm in *Macon*, GA 2-9 Mar (ph. PMc, KM, m.ob.), with one remaining until 30 Mar (ph. MMcB, PJ). A Worm-eating Warbler on Skidaway Island, GA 19 Mar (RW) represented a state early arrival date. Along with scattered reports of migrants came the unwelcome news that only one singing male Golden-winged Warbler was detected at the species' southernmost known breeding site at Brawley Mountain, GA 5-28 May (m.ob.); advertising vigorously well into the period, the bird did not appear to find a mate, and it is feared that the species now no longer nests in the state (*fide* NK). Connecticut Warblers were reported from eight sites (six in Georgia, two in North Carolina), with a notable high count of 3 at Henderson Park, GA 18 May (BT); all of the Region's Mourning Warblers occurred in Georgia: one in *Catoosa* 15 May (DHo); a rare observation of 2 interacting at Kennesaw Mountain N.P. 15 May (JN, m.ob.); and one in *Meriwether* 22 May (PHo). An American Redstart represented an early arrival date on L.S.S.I. 24 Mar (GA). A Yellow-rumped Warbler in the area of Clingman's Dome, NC 27 May (JonC) was suggestive of nesting; readers will recall the state's first confirmation of breeding in *Avery* (early Jun 2010) occurred in similar habitat and at a significantly lower elevation. A wintering Wilson's Warbler was last reported in *Dougherty*, GA 3 Mar (RBro, MMa).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

An American Tree Sparrow was quite a surprise on Dewees Island, SC 5 May (AG). An impressive 10 Clay-colored Sparrows were tallied at Lake Phelps, NC 11 Mar (RB). A Lark Sparrow returned to a yard in *Mecklenburg*, NC 18 Mar (LW), and 2 were in *Jackson*, GA 23 Mar–3 Apr (RHo, m.ob.). A Savannah Sparrow was quite late at Glennville, GA 25 May (GW), as was an inland Nelson's Sparrow in *Jackson*, NC 19 May (JH). There were 10 reports of Lincoln's Sparrows Regionwide. A **Lazuli Bunting** became a most unexpected feeder bird in Jamestown, *Guilford*, NC 2 Apr (ph. MMay), providing North Carolina with its second record. The persistent breeding colony of Dickcissels at North River Farms, *Carteret*, NC held 25 singing males on 19 May (JFu et al.). Yellow-headed Blackbirds turned up at Washington, NC 2 Mar (MMcC et al.), in *Greenville*, SC 2 Apr (DeA), and in *Houston*, GA 7 Apr (ph. CY). An impressive 4 **Bullock's Orioles** were present in the Region during the period: an imm. male in *DeKalb*, GA 6-14 Mar (JSe); and ad. males in *Mecklenburg*, NC 13 Mar (BL); at Hinesville, *Liberty*, GA 15-19 Mar (NJ); and at Valdosta, *Lowndes*, GA 5-6 Apr (ph.BBe).

Many birds from the substantial incursion of winter finches lounged at feeders and continued to be observed in the field well into spring. Ordinarily uncommon constituents of s. Appalachian avifauna, Red Crossbills were observed at an above-average 16 montane sites, with a high count of 20 in *Wilkes*, NC 23 Apr (EHar, RM). There were two reports of Red Crossbill from North Carolina's Piedmont, on 3 Mar and 2 Apr (both AT), and the southernmost record was provided by 2 birds in flight over protected montane Longleaf Pine uplands within Sheffield W.M.A., *Paulding*, GA 26 May (KB, RBy). Single **Common Redpolls** were in *Forsyth*, NC 8-10 Mar (ph. MH, PD, m.ob.) and *Yancey*, NC 8 Mar (DHJ). Up to 2 **Evening Grosbeaks** visited feeders in Epworth, *Fannin*, GA 9-15 Apr (D&KT), and 9+ were present at Bryson City, *Swain*, NC mid-Apr (AZ, m.ob.).

Contributors: James Abbott (JAb), Jamie Adams, Derek Aldrich (DeA), David Alle, Gary Allport, Fred Alsop, Bob Anderson, Nate Bacheler, Ryan Bakelaar (RB), Brian Barchus (BBa), Dick Barmore, Sandy Beasley, Giff Beaton, Brad Bergstrom (BBe), Ken Blankenship, Perri Borowiecki, Brenda Brannen, Robin Brown (RBr), Roy Brown (RBro), Rebecca Byrd (RBy), Steve Calver (SCal), Susan Campbell, John Carpenter, Jonathan Carpenter (JonC), Melissa Carroll, Derb Carter, Ron Clark, Ed

Always noteworthy in the Southeast, this Common Redpoll fueled up at feeders in Forsyth County, North Carolina from 8 (here) through 10 March 2013. *Photograph by Marbry Hopkins.*

Corey, John Cox (JCo), Ricky Davis, Nathan Dias, Phil Dickinson, David Disher, Shannon Fair, Nathan Farnau, Jack Fennell (JFe), Jim Ferrari (JFer), James Fleullan (JFl), James F. Flynn, Jr. (JFF), Pam Ford, Dennis Forsythe, John Fussell (JFu), Jason Gardner, Beth Garver, Andrew Gilbert (AGil), Aaron Given, Cory Gregory, Krista Gridley, Robert Gundy, David Hapman (DHa), Phil Hardy, Andy Harrison (AHa), Eric Harrold (EHar), David Harsh (DHar), Ethan Hatchett, Jim & Allison Healy (J&AH), Katherine Higgins, Tyler Hoar, Amanda Holland, Teri Holland (THol), David Hollie (DHo), Rachel Holzman (RHo), Pierre Howard (PHo), Daniel Hueholt, Jeremy Hyman, Derrick Ingle, Nicole Janke, David H. Johnson (DHJ), Matt Johnson, Paul Johnson, Gene Keferl, Tim Keyes, JoAnn King, Nathan Klaus, Vincent Koczurik, Mark Kosiewski, Nathan Lellouche, Maureen Leong-Kee, Bob Lewis, Jeff Lewis (JLe), Henry Link, Pat Markey, Melissa Martin (MMa), Maryann Mayer (MMay), Michael McBrien (MMcB), Marty McClelland (MM), Mike McCloy (MMcC), Dennie McClure, Keith McCullough, Patty McLean (PMc), Joel McNeal, Kathy Miller (KMi), Ron Morris, Chet Morse, Justin Neal, Perry Nugent, Jim Ozier, Brian Patteson, Inc. (BPI), Holly Powell, Taylor Piephoff, Keith Rittmaster, Wayne Schaffner, Stephen Schutt (SSc), Jeff Sewell (JSe), Chris Smith, Fletcher Smith, Jon Smith (JSm), Lisa Smith, Marvin Smith, Cherrie Sneed, Seth Spencer (SSp), Abby Sterling, Jim Strickland, Paul W. Sykes, Jr. (PWS), Ben Thesing, Andrew Thornton, Dave & Kathy Tickner, Ginger Travis, Steven Trott, Rusty Trump, Jerry Walls, Lee Weber, Russ Wigh, Gene Wilkinson, Scott Winton, Connie Wulkowicz, Carolyn Yager, Bob Zaremba, Andy Zivinsky.

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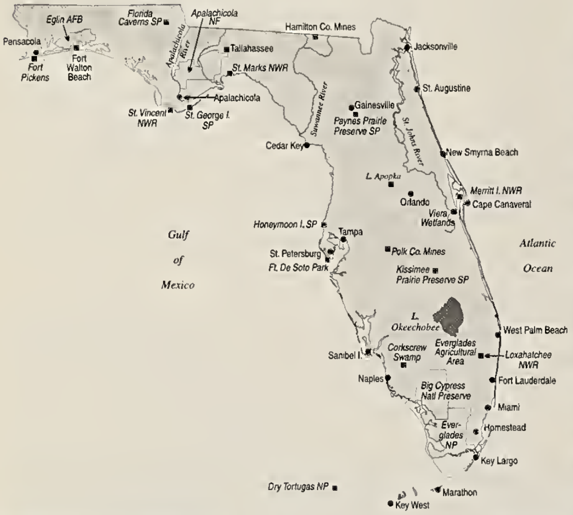
Florida


Eglin AFB
Florida Caverns SP
Apalachicola NF
Hamilton Co. Mines
Pensacola
Fort Pickens
Fort Walton Beach
Apalachicola River
Tallahassee
St. Marks NWR
Jacksonville
St. Augustine
Apalachicola
St. Vincent NWR
St. George I. SP
Suwannee River
Gainesville
Paynes Prairie Preserve SP
St. Johns River
Cedar Key
New Smyrna Beach
L. Apopka
Orlando
Merritt I. NWR
Cape Canaveral
Viera Wetlands
Honeymoon I. SP
Tampa
Gulf of Mexico
St. Petersburg
Ft. De Soto Park
Polk Co. Mines
Kissimee Prairie Preserve SP
Atlantic Ocean
L. Okeechobee
West Palm Beach
Sanibel I.
Corkscrew Swamp
Everglades Agricultural Area
Loxahatchee NWR
Naples
Fort Lauderdale
Big Cypress Natl Preserve
Miami
Ever-glades NP
Homestead
Key Largo
Dry Tortugas NP
Marathon
Key West

Bruce H. Anderson

Spring migration was eventful along the Gulf coast from the panhandle to Monroe County at Key West and Dry Tortugas National Park. Throughout the remainder of the peninsula, however, it was largely uneventful. The Duncans reported that a low-pressure area in the Gulf 3 April, with a cold front on 5 April, produced several fallouts in the panhandle and an abundance of vireos, while in the peninsula, Brian Ahern tallied about 50 Hooded Warblers at Fort De Soto Park, Pinellas County and Goodrich counted 100 Prairie Warblers at Key West. A squall line with another front 19 April brought an abundance of warblers to the panhandle and big bend, where Larry Gridley found about 50 Black-and-white Warblers and 50 Black-throated Green Warblers at St. George Island State Park, Franklin County, while Barattini noted a Fork-tailed Flycatcher at Dry Tortugas National Park. Early May, a normally uneventful month for migrants, brought an abundance of thrushes, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, and Red-eyed Vireos to the Gulf coast on easterly winds, according to the Duncans. The Duncans also commented that strong westerly to southerly winds 4-8 May brought an accumulation of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, thrushes, Indigo Buntings, and Red-eyed Vireos to the panhandle. During the same time, in Key West, Goodrich found rarities such as La Sagra's Flycatcher, Connecticut and Cerulean Warblers, about 25 Gray-cheeked Thrushes, and relatively high numbers of warblers such as 20 Worm-eating, 6 Swainson's, and 60 Blackpoll Warblers.

Perhaps the rarest species this spring was a Bewick's Wren, casual in Florida. The most unexpected event of the season was the first breeding of Tropical Kingbird in the state. Caribbean vagrants included White-cheeked Pintail, Short-eared Owl (from a West Indian population), La Sagra's Flycatcher, Thick-billed Vireo, Bahama Mockingbird, Western Spindalis, Cuban Grassquit (probable escapee), Black-faced Grassquit, and Shiny Cowbird.

Abbreviations/definitions: big bend (the part of Florida from the Apalachicola River and through *Jefferson*); FL.M.N.H. (Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville); F.O.S.R.C. (Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee); Lake Apopka (Lake Apopka Restoration Area, *Orange* unless otherwise stated); N.E.R.R. (National Estuarine Research Reserve); panhandle (that part of Florida from the Apalachicola River through *Escambia*); Paynes Prairie (Paynes Prairie Preserve S.P., *Alachua*); record (only those reports verifiable from photograph, videotape, and/or specimen evidence); report (any observation); S.T.A. (Stormwater Treatment Area); S.T.F. (Spray Treatment Fields).

WATERFOWL THROUGH HAWKS

Rare Greater White-fronted Geese lingered, with one at Jacksonville, *Duval* remaining until 8 May (Laura Lewis-Tuffin) and 2 at Bystre Lake, *Hernando* continuing through 10 May (SMa et al.). A lone Greater White-fronted at Key West Jan–11 Mar (CGd) and

These Black-capped Petrels were off Elliot Key, Biscayne National Park, Miami-Dade County, Florida 25 May 2013 (left) and off Ponce de Leon Inlet, Volusia County, Florida 19 May 2013. *Photographs by Roberto Torres (left) and Michael Brothers.*

15-24 Apr (MG) provided the first Keys report. A small population of feral free-flying Mute Swans persists in cen. *Brevard*; one was observed at s. Merritt Island 21-22 May (DF). The Eurasian Wigeons that overwintered at Merritt Island N.W.R. were not reported this spring; however, single males were found at Cape Coral, *Lee* 21 Mar+ (Ruth Parks, CE) and Pelican Island N.W.R., *Indian River* 21 Mar–2 Apr (Tom Ford, BPr), exceptionally late. A tardy Cinnamon Teal stayed at S.T.A.-5, *Hendry* all season (Margaret England, CE). The last report of the 2 male Cinnamon Teal at Merritt Island N.W.R. was a single 17 Mar (Gail Becker, PH, TR). A **White-cheeked Pintail** at Pelican Island N.W.R. 6 Mar–7 Apr (m.ob.) pleased many birders who added the species to their various lists after this duck was accepted by the F.O.S.R.C. as a bird of probable wild provenance; it was not found in a heavily populated area or one where large waterfowl collections are popular. Casual on the Gulf, a Common Eider visited Clearwater Beach, *Pinellas* 30 Apr–1 May (Travis Young). A White-winged Scoter and 21 Black Scoters were very late at Huguenot Memorial Park, *Duval* 26 May (KDi), following the latter species' invasion during fall/winter 2012-2013. All reports of Long-tailed Ducks came from the Gulf, where the species is casual. Two singles overwintered, one along the Courtney Campbell Causeway, *Pinellas/Hillsborough* through 4 Mar, the other at Alafia Banks Sanctuary, Hillsborough Bay through the end of the season (both *fide* BPr). A female Long-tailed dropped in at Cape San Blas, *Gulf* 7 May (JMu). A female **Common Merganser** at Gulf Harbors G.C. 28 Mar (p.a., DGa) may have been the same one found farther s. in fall 2012.

American Flamingos are becoming more regular in *Miami-Dade*: 7 along Card Sound Rd. 21 Apr (MG); 8 over Key Biscayne 9 May (RaD); 15 at Bear Cut 14 May (*fide* Ann Wiley); and 2 over Black Point 14 May (RaD). These were more likely from the free-flying feral colony that breeds at Hialeah than wild flamingos from Florida Bay, *Monroe*; however, the distribution of these two populations in s. Florida may be more complex than is currently believed. In the Gulf Stream, 12 Black-capped Petrels were seen during a pelagic trip off Ponce de Leon Inlet, *Volusia* 19 May (MBr), and one was off Elliot Key, *Miami-Dade* 25 May (RoT), along with about 400 Audubon Shearwaters, a very high count for recent decades. Other tubenoses found on the 19 May pelagic off Ponce de Leon Inlet included 2 Cory's Shearwaters, 15 Audubon's Shearwaters, 6 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, a Leach's Storm-Petrel, 5 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels (all MBr et al.), and a Sooty Shearwater (MBe); always exciting was a White-tailed Tropicbird on the same trip (MBr et al.). Away from Dry Tortugas N.P., boobies were seen along both coasts, with single Masked Boobies at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic S.P., Key West 12 Mar (CGd) and Fort Pickens, Gulf Islands N.S., *Escambia* 14 Apr (PJ). Two Brown Boobies were also at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic S.P. 5 Mar (CGd), while singles were viewed off Ponce de Leon Inlet 19 May (MBr) and on the beach at Guana Tolomato Matanzas N.E.R.R., *St. Johns* 31 May (DiR). Up to 4 **Neotropic Cormorants** were at Wakodahatchee Wetlands, *Palm Beach* through 5 May (JHB), where apparently 2 or more individuals have successfully bred with Double-crested Cormorants in the past two breeding seasons (MBe).

Single nonbreeding Great White Herons visited coastal *Indian River* 22 May (Billi Wagner), inland Paynes Prairie 15 Apr+ (John Killian), and inland Brooksville, *Hernando* 26 May+ (SMa). Single small herons photographed at Emeralda Marsh C.A., *Lake* 28 Apr (AlH, PH) and Merritt Island N.W.R. 23-24 Mar (JoS, Jennifer Zelik) appeared to be hybrids, but parentage was not clearly discernible. In mid-Apr, a Glossy Ibis, only casual at Dry Tortugas N.P., associated with Cattle Egrets on the parade ground at Fort Jefferson (ChB). White-faced Ibis had a good showing, with as many as 3 at Paynes Prairie 8 Mar–7 Apr (Tom Johnson, Doug Gochfeld), one at Circle B Bar Reserve, *Polk* 31 Mar (C. Fredricks), and 2 at Tallahassee, *Leon* 22 May (John Erickson). At least three active Roseate Spoonbill nests were verified at Seahorse Key, Cedar Keys N.W.R., *Levy* 16 May (DHe, *fide* Victor Doig); this is farther n. on the Gulf coast than the species was known to breed historically and about 156 km n. of the closest current breeding colony. Reddish Egrets have been seen at Seahorse Key, too, but to date there is no evidence to confirm breeding.

When the Swallow-tailed Kites return in spring, this social species soon gathers at established roost sites—first, nonbreeding individuals, then family groups. By mid-May, 304 kites had assembled over fields at Lake Apopka (HR); about 150 were along Powerline Rd., *Hernando/Pasco* 26 May (AlH, MG et al.). Mississippi Kites and Broad-winged Hawks are rare migrants in the peninsula s. of n. Florida, so of interest were a Mississippi Kite that lingered at Sawgrass Lake Park, *Pinellas* 24 Apr–14 May (John & Nancy Ogden), 2 at s. Merritt Island 6 May (DF), and 3 along Powerline Rd. 26 May+ (AlH, JoS). The only report of a migrant Broad-winged Hawk in the peninsula was of one at Ormond Beach, *Volusia* 27 May (Steve Petruniak). The **Great Black-Hawk** of unknown provenance persisted throughout the season at Virginia Key, *Miami-Dade* (RoD), where it has been seen regularly for about a decade. A dark-morph Short-tailed Hawk was far n. at Theodore Roosevelt Preserve, *Duval* 8 May (DP).

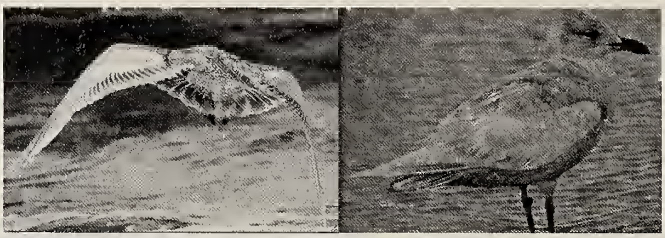
This Band-rumped Storm-Petrel off Ponce de Leon Inlet, Volusia County 19 May 2013 shows fresh inner primaries and worn outer primaries, a molt typical of birds seen off Florida's Atlantic Coast in the spring and early summer. Most likely, this bird was of the winter-breeding population currently called Grant's Storm-Petrel. *Photograph by Michael Brothers.*

Exciting a boat-full of pelagic birders, this adult White-tailed Tropicbird was encountered 19 May 2013 off Ponce de Leon Inlet, Volusia County, Florida. *Photograph by Michael Brothers.*

This second-year Arctic Tern was photographed off Ponce de Leon Inlet, Volusia County, Florida 19 May 2013; the species is highly pelagic during spring migration. *Photograph by Michael Brothers.*

LIMPKIN THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Unusually far n. in *St. Johns* were a Limpkin at Six Mile Creek 15 May (Gary Davis) and



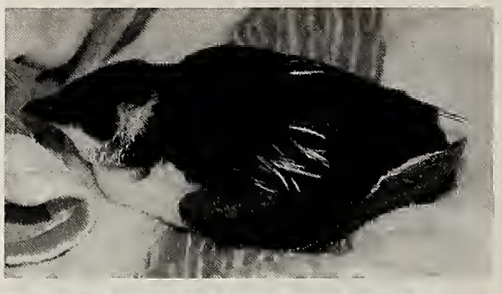
This worn first-cycle gull at Daytona Beach Shores, Volusia County 9-16 (here 9) March 2013 appears to be a Thayer's Gull, rare in Florida. *Photograph by Michael Brothers.*

a resident Sandhill Crane pair (*G. c. pratensis*) with a colt 8 May (DD). The only American Golden-Plover reported was one at Crandon Park Beach, *Miami-Dade* 19 Apr (RoD). On 22 Mar, counts of 9 and 18 Piping Plovers were made in *Pinellas* at North Anclote Bar (DGa) and Three Rooker Island (BPr), respectively, two favorite Gulf wintering sites. Rare in n. Florida, a Black-necked Stilt visited Jeffco Dairy, *Jefferson* 27 Apr (Marvin Smith), and a pair had a nest with eggs at International Paper Wetlands, *Escambia* 26 May (B&JC). Just as rare in the Keys, an American Avocet dropped in at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic S.P. 19 Mar (CGd). Inland shorebirds of note included a Willet at Alachua 5 Apr (Patricia Burns), a Whimbrel at Lake Apopka 26 Apr (HR), and a Marbled Godwit at S.T.A. 1-East, *Palm Beach* 6 Apr (CW). Upland Sandpipers were scarce, with only 5 reported from three locations: M&M Dairy, *Duval* 26 (one) & 27 Mar (2; KDi); Brooker Creek Preserve, *Pinellas* 14 May (2; Kathleen Nichter); and Fort Zachary Taylor Historic S.P. 19 Apr (one; CGd). White-rumped Sandpipers were identified at four locations: 2 at M&M Dairy 4 May (KDi); one at Ohio Key, *Monroe* 14 Apr (MG); and a high of at least 7 w. of Bunnell, *Flagler* 9 May (MBr). Very rare in spring, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper appeared at Trinity 26 May (KT). All three phalarope species put in appearances. Up to 8 Wilson's Phalaropes visited Fort Walton Beach S.T.F. 6-10 May (L&RAD, MS), while a lone Red Phalarope dropped in at Huguenot Memorial Park 28 Mar (Shelley Beville). Annual but very rare in the spring, Red-necked Phalaropes were found on the coast or on pelagic trips, with 12 at Vilano Beach 4 May (DiR), 12 off Ponce de Leon Inlet 19 May (MBr), and 5 off Elliot Key 25 May (RoT).

One of 2 Black-legged Kittiwakes that overwintered at South Skyway Fishing Pier, *Hillsborough* remained through 15 Mar (*fide* BAh). A second-cycle Sabine's Gull, rarely seen in Florida, was at Dry Tortugas N.P. 17-18 Apr (Jason Estep, Larry Manfredi). Other rare gulls found this season were a second-cycle Herring Gull × Glaucous Gull hybrid at Huguenot Memorial Park 9 Mar (KDi); a first-cycle Thayer's Gull at Daytona Beach Shores, *Volusia* 9-16 Mar (MBr); 3 first-cycle Kumlien's Iceland Gulls at Daytona Beach Shores 4 Mar–5 Apr (MBr); and 3 first-cycle Glaucous Gulls at three *Volusia* locations 4 Mar–22 Apr, and another far s. at Key West G.C. 11 Mar (CGd). Some 93 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, including 25 ads., were s. at Crandon Park Beach 8 Apr (RoD), while a second-cycle Lesser visited Pensacola Beach 17 Apr (L&RAD). Rare and local on the Gulf, 2 Great Black-backed Gulls were at Sanibel Island 3-5 Mar (Tom Schaefer, Julie Long) and one at Bunche Beach, *Lee* 7 Mar (CE).

On the 19 May pelagic off Ponce de Leon Inlet, 74 Sooty, 8 Bridled, and 5 Arctic Terns were identified, while another Arctic was viewed from shore at Longboat Key, *Manatee* 16 May (JGi, Stu Wilson), a very rare Gulf sighting. A Sooty Tern was at old St. George Island causeway, *Franklin* 23 Apr (JMu), where a pair or two have nested in previous years. A lone Sooty loitered 22 Mar+ at Three Rooker Island (Sid Crawford), where other tern species breed in summer. On 3 May, single Sooties were seen from shore at Fort George Inlet, *Duval* (Dave Foster, Thomas Rohtsalu) and Guana Tolomato Matanzas N.E.R.R. (DiR). A Black Noddy visited the Bush Key tern colony at Dry Tortugas N.P. in early May (ChB). Rare on the Atlantic coast in spring, a Black Tern was spotted at St. Augustine Inlet, *St. Johns* 3 May (DD). At least one Elegant-type tern has been seen at various locations along the peninsular Gulf coast since spring 2012; 2 ads. were together at Bowman's Beach, Sanibel Island 25 Apr (ph. David T. Shoch). There are various opinions regarding the identification of some of these birds, including Elegant Tern × Sandwich Tern hybrids. With only one **Dovekie** reported over the winter, unexpected were a moribund individual at New Smyrna Beach, *Volusia* 21 Mar (MBr, *FL.M.N.H.) and a corpse in *Indian River* 8 Apr (*fide* Andy Kratter). **Razorbills** were seen on both coasts, with observations at Alligator Point, *Franklin* 3 Mar (9; JMu); Lighthouse Point Park, *Volusia* 10 Mar (one; Brian Monk); Anna Maria Island, Manatee 14 Mar (one; Kenneth Sullivan); St. Augustine Beach, *St. Johns* 18 Mar (one; Chris Hooker); Boynton Inlet, *Palm Beach* 27 Mar (one; Paul Davis); Little Talbot Island S.P., *Duval* 29 Mar (one; Patrick Leary); Pensacola Beach 4 Apr (3; L&RAD); Miami 8 Apr (at least 2; RaD); and Opal Beach, *Santa Rosa*, where one was found dead 13 May (Toby Stapleton).

Florida's third verified recent **Inca Dove** was seen at Jacksonville 3 Mar (*fide* Jon Greenlaw). Mangrove Cuckoos have a poorly known distribution on the Gulf coast of the peninsula; 3 were found at Emerson Point Preserve, *Manatee* 19 Apr (Sharon Dewart-Hansen) and 2 at Weedon Island Preserve, *Pinellas* 14 May+ (Ron Smith), where they are more or less regular and likely breed. Only three reports of single Black-billed Cuckoos were received, from the big bend to the Keys (CGd, HR, LG). There were no spring reports of **Smooth-billed Ani**; however, a Groove-billed Ani at Paynes Prairie remained from winter through 18 Apr (RR, Rob Robinson). A West Indian Short-eared Owl loitered at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic S.P. 20-28 Apr (CGd), and another was at Dry Tortugas N.P. for about two weeks in mid-Apr (ChB). Not totally unexpected on Dry Tortugas N.P., Barattini reported a Burrowing Owl, a very rare migrant there, during the first week of Mar. Rarely found during migration in the panhandle, single Lesser Nighthawks frequented Fort Pickens 7 Apr–2 May (PJ, Jerry Callaway), and one was at Gulf Breeze 9 Apr (L&RAD). The winter western hummingbird season wound down with a **Broad-billed Hummingbird** banded at Tallahassee 1 Mar (Fred Dietrich) and Rufous Hummingbirds at Daytona Beach 9-18 Mar (one; MBr) and Ocala, *Marion* through 18 Mar (2; Tom Green, Amie Giminez). Single Red-headed Woodpeckers visited Merritt Island N.W.R. 1 Mar (TR), Genius Drive Nature Preserve, Winter Park, *Orange* 21 Apr (PH), and Lake Apopka 29 Apr (HR), while 2 that wintered at Matheson Hammock Park, *Miami-Dade* departed after 15 Apr (JHB).



With only one Dovekie reported in Florida during the Razorbill invasion last winter, this moribund bird found at New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County 21 March 2013 was unexpected. It was brought to the Marine Science Center in Volusia County for rehabilitation but did not survive. *Photograph by Michael Brothers.*

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Single Least Flycatchers that wintered at Micanopy, *Alachua* (JMy) and at San Antonio, *Pasco* (DGa) were not seen after 16 Mar and 6 Apr, respectively. The **Say's Phoebe** that wintered at Fort Walton Beach S.T.F., *Okaloosa* remained through 1 Apr (MS). Three Vermilion Flycatchers remained into spring in *Miami-Dade* (AxH, RoT), as did one one at Tiger Point, *Santa Rosa* (Bill & Greta Bremser), with the latest to leave, one at San Antonio through 26 Mar (DGa). Four Ash-throated Flycatchers lingered in the cen. and s. peninsula, with the latest seen also at San Antonio through 1 Apr (DGa). A wintering Brown-crested Flycatcher at Frog Pond W.M.A. remained through 3 Apr (AxH). La Sagra's Flycatchers were widespread in the s. peninsula, with singles at Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P. and Virginia Key, both 15-26 Apr (RoD); Fort Zachary Taylor Historic S.P. 7 May (CGd); and n. at Green Cay Wetlands, *Palm Beach* through 9 Mar (Justin Miller). Unexpected was a **La Sagra's Flycatcher** at Leffis Key Preserve, Bradenton Beach, *Manatee* 14-15 Apr (JGi, ph. BPr et al.)—a first for the Gulf coast and the northernmost record in North America. Wintering **Tropical Kingbirds** remained at East Everglades, *Miami-Dade* through 14 Mar (Bill Boeringer) and Frog Pond W.M.A. through 2 Apr (RoT); a silent Tropical/Couch's Kingbird was at Belle Glade Marina, *Palm Beach* 9-11 Mar (CW, Brian Hope). First noticed in late winter 2013, a **Cassin's Kingbird** continued w. of Bunnell through 20 Apr (MBr). A lone Gray Kingbird passed inland at Lake Apopka 13 May (HR). In late Apr, strong southerly winds brought a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and a Fork-tailed Flycatcher to Dry Tortugas N.P.; generally, Scissor-taileds avoid crossing broad expanses of water and are thus casual in the Tortugas.

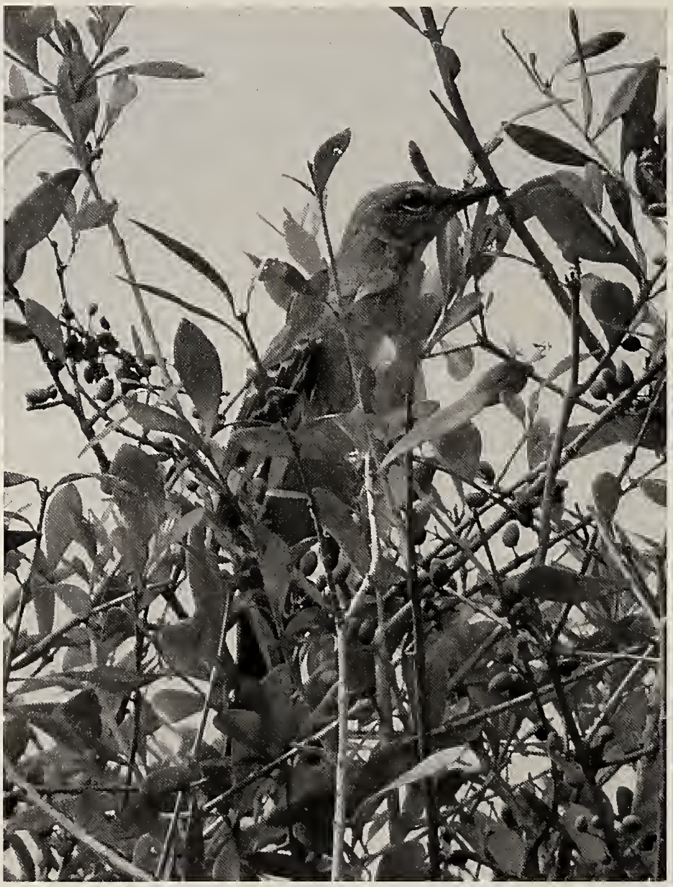
A **Thick-billed Vireo** was identified at Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P. 4 Mar–6 May (RoD). Regular, but rare, a Bell's Vireo was discovered at Markham Park, *Broward* 7-11 Mar (Brian Monk), while Florida's first overwintering Warbling Vireo lingered at South Miami through 4 Apr (Joe Barros). Cliff Swallows are rare in spring, so 30 at Honeymoon Island S.P. 13 Apr (DGa, EK) and 8 at New Port Richey 30 Apr (DGa) were noteworthy. Except for 4 Cave Swallows at Baxter, *Baker* 25 Mar (Bob Richter), all reports of the species away from colonies (8 birds from seven locations) came from the Gulf coast, with 2 at Gulf Breeze 25 Mar (RAD) and one at Fort Walton Beach S.T.F. 10 May (MS); the species ranged s. to one at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic S.P. 3 Mar (CGd). As the Red-breasted Nuthatch invasion that began fall 2012 drew to a close this spring, 20 nuthatches at eight locations were reported as far s. as *Pasco*, with 5 nuthatches there at two locations (DGa; KT), and as late as 3 May in *Hernando*, with 3 at two locations (J&SMa; MG).

This Thick-billed Vireo was identified at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park, Miami-Dade County, Florida 4 March through 6 May 2013 (here 12 April). ***Photograph by Robin Diaz.***

Once a rare but regular species in northernmost Florida, there have been no accepted reports of **Bewick's Wren** in more than 20 years; thus unexpected was a report of one at Fort Pickens 26 Apr (RAD). The only spring report of Wood Thrush in the peninsula came from s. Merritt Island 11 Mar (DF). A Bahama Mockingbird loitered at Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P. 12-16 Apr (RoD). Rare in the Keys, a Brown Thrasher that overwintered at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic S.P. remained through 2 Apr (CGd). Four Common Mynas at the same Key West location 19 Apr arrived on the island from high off the Florida Straits, flying in from a southerly direction; this phenomenon has been observed in previous springs, but the provenance of these mynas is unknown, and none were observed in Key West in winter 2012-2013 (CGd). Common Mynas are established locally on the mainland of s. Florida.

Of interest were 2 unusual Yellow-rumped Warblers captured at a banding station in *Seminole* 3 Mar (Andrew Boyle); a photograph of an ad. male shows a yellowish wash on the forehead as well as the throat. Among the rarer warblers were Blue-winged Warblers, with 9 reported at four locations (Ryan Terrill, Jeff Miller, BAh, Warren Parker, LG); zero Golden-winged Warblers; 24 Swainson's Warblers from 12 cen. and s. peninsular locations (Vince McGrath, DGa, TR, PH, C. Pierce, Eric Plage, CGd, DHe, EK, JMy, Jim Wells, Colin Gjervold), with highs of 4 at Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P. 7 Apr (RoD) and 6 at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic S.P. 5 Apr (CGd) during the height of a 4-7 Apr movement; single Nashville Warblers at Guana Tolomato Matanzas N.E.R.R. 23 Mar (*fide* BPr), Fort Zachary Taylor Historic S.P. 11 Apr (CGd), and Paynes Prairie through 17 Apr (Trevor Persons); single Connecticut Warblers at Theodore Roosevelt Preserve, *Duval* 8 May (DP), Walter Fuller Park, *Pinellas* 11 May (Tim Kalbach), and Leffis Key 21 May (JGi); a **Kirtland's Warbler** at San Felasco Hammock Preserve S.P. 5 May (MM, ph. Glenn Price); 5 Cerulean Warblers, including singles at Fort De Soto Park (Sue Tavaglione) and Fort Zachary Taylor Historic S.P., both 7 May (CGd), and a late date for the species; a Magnolia Warbler at Hanna Park, *Duval* 26 Apr (Donald Prigen); single Bay-breasted Warblers at Leffis Key Preserve 17-21 Apr (Shelby McNemar), Fort De Soto Park 8 May (*fide* BPr), and Faver-Dykes S.P., *St. Johns* 9 May (GW); a Blackburnian Warbler at Honeymoon Island S.P. 27 Apr (EK, JMn); single Chestnut-sided Warblers at Lake Apopka 21 Apr (HR), New Port Richey 24 Apr (DGa), and Paynes Prairie 4 May (JMy); 50 Black-throated Green Warblers at St. George Island S.P. 20 Apr (LG); 5 Wilson's Warblers in the n. peninsula and panhandle 20 Mar–5 May (L&RAD, Ryan Butryn, Julie Cocke, KDi, Jim Cavanagh); and a Yellow-

SA A female **Tropical Kingbird** appeared at St. Armands Key, *Sarasota* 3 May+ (Ruth Ellen Peipert et al.); she built one nest, deserted it, then built a second nest in the same tree. Eventually, she laid 4 eggs and fledged 4 young in Jun. There were several Gray Kingbirds in the immediate area, but none was observed to interact with the Tropical. The fledged young looked alike, very similar to Gray Kingbirds, but with a distinct wash of yellow below the breast. After the young fledged, a male Tropical Kingbird appeared in the area and remained for some time. Again, though, no interaction was noted between the two Tropicals. At least 2 of the nestlings were banded, and blood was taken for DNA testing (the results have not yet been reported). This event was the first known nesting of Tropical Kingbird in Florida.



This Bahama Mockingbird was yet another West Indian stray at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park, Miami-Dade County, Florida 12-16 (here 12) April 2013. *Photograph by Robin Diaz.*

breasted Chat at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic S.P. 8 Apr (CGd), where the species is casual. At least 10 chat pairs established territories at Lake Apopka during May (HR), the farthest s. in the peninsula where chats regularly breed.

Western Spindalis reports included a female at Stock Island, *Monroe* that appeared in late winter 2013 and remained through 24 Apr (CGd); a male at Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P. 16 Mar (NL, Nancy Price); a female at Spanish River Park, *Palm Beach* 6 Apr (B&NL); a male far inland at Loxahatchee N.W.R., *Palm Beach* 25 Apr (Rick Newman); and a black-backed male at Fort Zachary Taylor S.P. 3-12 May (CGd). Two other West Indian species were identified this season: a **Cuban Grassquit** at Genius Drive Nature Preserve 13 May (BHA, Larry Taylor) that was likely an escapee, and a **Black-faced Grassquit** at Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P. 30 Apr–5 May (RaD, ph. Reinhard Geisler) that was probably the same bird found there in fall 2012. Unusual sparrows included a total of 9 Clay-colored Sparrows scattered from Fort Pickens 10 Mar–12 Apr (B&JC) and Reddie Point Preserve, *Duval* 20 Apr (RR) to Cockroach Bay Preserve, *Hillsborough* 9 Mar (BAh); 4 lone Lark Sparrows ranging from Fort Pickens 10 Mar–6 May (B&JC) s. to *Lee* at Cape Coral 23 Mar (Shelby McNemar, Joe FitzGerald) and Cayo Costa S.P. 20 Apr (CE); a very late Savannah Sparrow at Lake Apopka 31 May (HR); rare Le Conte's Sparrows at Paynes Prairie 15 Mar (3; Caleb Gordon) and Micanopy 16 Mar–2 Apr (2, Adam Zions, Kathy Malone); a remarkable **29** Seaside Sparrows at Guana Tolomato Matanzas N.E.R.R. 7 Apr (DD), where the species is not known to breed or to winter; a rare Fox Sparrow at Faver-Dykes S.P. 3 Mar (Lillian Saul, Doug Wassmer); and rare, single Lincoln's Sparrows at S.R. 60 at the Kissimmee River, *Polk* 5 Mar (EK) and at Lake Apopka through 13 Mar (HR).

Four Western Tanagers were found in the n. peninsula at Alachua 17-29 Mar (Rachel Rocke, JoH), Hyde Grove, *Duval* 22 Mar–11 Apr (Carly Wainwright), Ocala 18 Apr (A. Rudd), and Fort White, *Columbia* 27-30 Apr (Barbara Knutson). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were very scarce this spring in the peninsula. Fifteen pairs of Blue Grosbeaks and more than 25 pairs of Indigo buntings were tallied during May at Lake Apopka, the farthest s. in the peninsula where each species is known to breed regularly (HR). This year's **Lazuli Bunting** was a male at Florida City, *Miami-Dade* 24 Mar–11 Apr (Steve Tennis, ph. Trey Mitchell). A Painted Bunting at Pace, *Santa Rosa* 24 Mar (Daniel Stangeland) was rare for the panhandle. Dickcissels were scarce this season, with reports from Lake Apopka 29 Apr (2; HR) and Fort De Soto Park 12 May (one; JMn).

Lone Yellow-headed Blackbirds made appearances at Bald Point, *Franklin* 4 May (Stephanie Parker, Deanna Murphy) and Brandon, *Hillsborough*, where one from winter 2013 remained through 14 Mar (*fide* BAh). The only report of *Euphagus* blackbirds this spring were birds that first appeared in winter 2013: 3 Rusty Blackbirds at Fort Island Trail Park, *Citrus* remained through 4 Mar (MG), and a female Brewer's Blackbird at Bayport, *Hernando* was last reported 29 Mar (GW). Boat-tailed Grackles are wintering more frequently in the panhandle in recent years but remain unverified as a breeding species there; a female carrying nesting material along the Escambia River, *Escambia* 11 May (Max Griggs) represents the first breeding report for the area. A singing male Shiny Cowbird at St. Petersburg, *Pinellas* 11 May (Mark Burns) was the only spring report of that species. Twenty-four Bronzed Cowbirds at Clewiston, *Hendry* 10 Apr, including males courting females (David Simpson), left little doubt that this species, already established in se. Florida, is established on the s. end of Lake Okeechobee as well. Lone vagrant Bronzed Cowbirds from w. populations were found at Hague 29 Apr–4 May (JoH, MM) and Pensacola 10 May (Jim Brady). Twenty-six pairs of Orchard Orioles were counted at Lake Apopka during May (HR), as far s. in the peninsula as the species is known to breed regularly. Rare and irregularly occurring in Florida, a female Purple Finch was s. to Winter Springs, *Seminole* 18-19 Apr (Lori Mathis, ph. PH). Following a winter when Pine Siskin reports were very scarce, 2 appeared at Holiday 9 Mar (DGa) and one far s. at Alva, *Lee* 23 Mar (Leon White, Gail Campbell).

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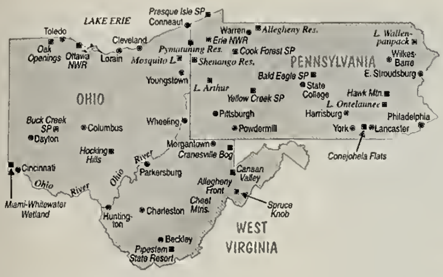
Eastern Highlands & Upper Ohio River Valley


LAKE ERIE
Presque Isle SP
Conneaut
Toledo
Oak Openings
Ottawa NWR
Lorain
Cleveland
Mosquito L.
Pymatuning Res.
Youngstown
Warren
Allegheny Res.
Erie NWR
Cook Forest SP
Shenango Res.
L. Wallenpaupack
Wilkes-Barre
PENNSYLVANIA
E. Stroudsburg
Bald Eagle SP
State College
L. Arthur
Yellow Creek SP
Hawk Mtn.
L. Ontelaunee
OHIO
Pittsburgh
Harrisburg
Philadelphia
Buck Creek SP
Columbus
Wheeling
Powdermill
York
Lancaster
Dayton
Morgantown
Cranesville Bog
Conejohela Flats
Hocking Hills
River
Cincinnati
Parkersburg
Ohio
Canaan Valley
Ohio
River
Allegheny Front
Miami-Whitewater Wetland
Huntington
Charleston
Cheat Mtns.
Spruce Knob
WEST VIRGINIA
Beckley
Pipestem State Resort

Victor W. Fazio, III
Tom Johnson

An unremarkable spring migration… for a change. With few early arrivals or vagrants, birders were compensated with large concentrations of birds. Among late waterfowl, Mute Swans were a standout within Lake Erie's Western Basin, where many remained throughout the period. Rare loons and kites attracted attention, as did *Plegadis* ibis. The shorebird story continues to be dominated by prairie breeders: Willet, American Avocet, and Marbled Godwit. These species put an exclamation mark on the 15-year increase in spring migrant flocks. Another bird of the central plains, American White Pelican, had a record showing. Songbird migration was so lackluster that the late departure of the winter finch flight dominated interested into May. This season is not usually associated with gull or hummingbird diversity, yet we saw highlights throughout, among them the Region's first Bahama Woodstar.

Abbreviations: Conneaut (Conneaut Marsh and Harbor, *Ashtabula*, OH); Fernald (Fernald Nature Preserve, *Hamilton*, OH); Metzger (Metzger Marsh W.M.A., *Lucas*, OH); N.W.P.C.P. (Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant, *Philadelphia*, PA); Ottawa (Ottawa N.W.R., *Ottawa/Lucas*, OH); P.I.S.P. (Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, PA); P.V.P. (Peace Valley Park, *Montgomery*, PA).

WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

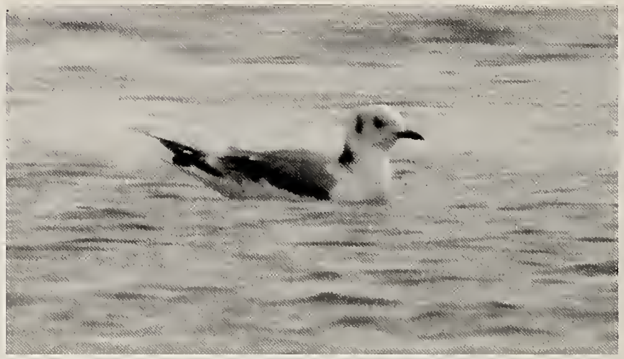
The Greater White-fronted Goose flight through w. Ohio involved 130+ birds led by 50 in *Lucas* 16 Mar (Dana Bollin). A flock of 8 at Berlin Lake, *Portage* 3-4 Mar (Larry Rosche, ph. KM) was impressive for the Unglaciated Plateau. A late Snow Geese was in s. Ohio 6-11 May (BM, DO); 3 were at Ottawa 19 May (Loren Hintz). Single Ross's Geese appeared mid-Mar through w. Ohio in *Hamilton* (J.W. Rettig, ph. Tyler Ficker, m.ob., KW), *Wood* (TK, ph. MRz et al.), and *Erie* (DC). Most unusual for Appalachia, a flock of 6 was present in Rayland, *Belmont*, OH 8 Mar (ph. Gary Bush), with a straggler noted in adjacent *Harrison* 27 Mar (ph. SP). A rare report of Ross's Goose came from the e. Panhandle of West Virginia in *Hardy* 24 Mar (ph. N. Wade Snyder). Ross's Geese were found in six Pennsylvania counties during Mar; the only one found outside that species' Snow Goose-associated stronghold was one at Shenango W.A., *Mercer* 6 Mar (Neil Troyer). A flock of 50 Brant that passed over the Erie hawkwatch 19 May were the only ones reported in Pennsylvania this season (Roger Donn, JM, Russ States). A Barnacle Goose was at Northampton Quarry, *Northampton*, PA 7-11 Mar (Billy Weber, m.ob.), continuing the increasing trend of reports of European geese strongly correlated with population increases and in some cases range extensions. Two Cackling Geese at Tygart Lake, *Taylor* 8-22 Mar (ph. Joe Hildreth) made the lone reports from West Virginia. Another 30 in w. Ohio were led by 18 at Riverside Park, *Hamilton* 4 Mar (ph. William Hull). Single Mute Swans at Clarksburg, *Harrison* 21 Apr (Sieglinde Stevens) and at White Sulphur Springs, *Greenbrier* came from new locations for the species within the cen. West Virginia highlands. The 114 at East Harbor S.P., *Ottawa*, OH 20 May (Allen Chartier) represents a state record count.

The Eurasian Wigeon flight was divided equally between the Unglaciated Plateau and the Piedmont. In the west, 5 Ohio singles were reported 13 Mar–10 Apr from *Richland* (Anna Wittmer), *Wayne* (Amber Hart, ph. IS, Margaret Higbee, m.ob.), *Portage* (Steve Hughes), *Geauga* (WH, ph. KM, ph. CCh, m.ob.), and *Trumbull* (KM). Adjacent w. Pennsylvania hosted singles in *Mercer* 19 Mar (ph. Shannon Thompson) and *Lawrence* 11 Apr (Richard Nugent, Deborah Kalbfleisch). Part of the same flight, one was at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, PA 16-28 Mar (Fred McCullough, Carol McCullough, GM, m.ob.). At least 8 more in Pennsylvania included 2 at Lake Ontelaunee, *Berks* 3 Mar–11 May, where they remained with several pairs of American Wigeon (Rudy Keller, m.ob.), and singles at St. Thomas, *Franklin* 1-5 Mar (Carl Garner), Woods Edge Park, *Lancaster* 7 Mar (JBo), Middle Creek W.M.A., *Lancaster* 9 Mar (Jonathan Campbell), Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster* 9 Mar (Meredith Lombard), Shenango W.A., *Mercer* 19 Mar (Shannon Thompson), and Copper Road Marsh, *Lawrence* 11 Apr (Richard Nugent et al.). A Eurasian Teal was seen between Upper Makefield Twp. and Newtown, *Bucks*, PA 12-21 Mar (Mark Gallagher).

The wintering Harlequin Duck in *Armstrong*, PA lingered through 7 Apr (Mike Dreibelbis). A late Greater Scaup at Killbuck Marsh W.A., *Wayne*, OH 15-18 May (Eric Schlabach, KM) was most unusual away from Lake Erie. Similarly, 2 were at Moraine S.P., *Butler*, PA 17 May (MV). A late departure by Surf Scoter was marked by 8 birds into May within the Lake Erie watershed, most notable being 2 on the Cleveland lakefront 27 May (JBr). At least 2 Red-throated Loons in ne. Ohio remained 5 May in *Cuyahoga* (ph. CCh, JBr, m.ob.) and *Geauga* (WH). Well off the flyway, a Red-throated was near Cincinnati on the Great Miami River, *Hamilton* 5 Apr (BWu). Threatening to become annual in the Region, 3 Pacific Loons were reported, including one at La Due Reservoir, *Geauga*, OH 4-10 Apr (ph. Matthew Valencic et al., WH, m.ob.). A Pacific Loon with Common Loons at Memorial Lake S.P., *Lebanon*, PA made a remarkable find on the Pennsylvania Migration Count 11 May (Jonathan Heller, m.ob.). In keeping with late-season diving waterfowl, Horned Grebes tarried in unusually high numbers, including singles at Beech Fork S.P., *Wayne*, WV 10 May (Laura Ceperly, Cynthia Ellis), at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, PA 27 May (Shannon Thompson), and at Hoover in cen. Ohio 26 May (Charlie Bombaci). A minor flight of Eared Grebes in Ohio involved singles in *Allen* 17 Mar (Regina Schieltz), *Paulding* 20-21 Mar (Scott Meyers, Robert Foppe), *Erie* 22-23 Mar (SD,

This banded Piping Plover was found by Jason Fidorra 14 (here 15) May 2013 at Gull Point, Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania, where an unbanded bird turned up two weeks later. *Photograph by Jerry McWilliams.*

ph. DC), and *Lorain* 31 Mar (Chris Pierce). Up to 2 were present at Marysville Reservoir, *Union*, OH 2-6 May (ph. IS, DGo, Wendy Becker). An Eared Grebe at Lake Nockamixon during a waterbird fallout 17 Apr furnished a long overdue first county record for heavily birded *Bucks*, PA (August Mirabella). Other Eared Grebes included one at Presque Isle 25 Apr (Mike Weible) and one in waterbird-poor *Greene*, PA at Lake Wilma 13 Apr (Jan Churney, Kathy Kern, Marjorie Howard).



Presque Isle, Pennsylvania is home to multiple records of Black-legged Kittiwake and other "inland pelagics," but the species is still quite rare there. This first-cycle Black-legged Kittiwake was found 24 March 2013. *Photograph by Geoff Malosh.*

The only Great Cormorant reported away from that species' typical Delaware River haunts was one at Lake Ontelaunee, *Berks*, PA 5 Apr (Rudy Keller). An American White Pelican made a rare appearance in West Virginia at Green Bottom W.M.A., *Cabell* 20-22 Mar (Todd Deal, Kevin Cade). The strongest pelican flight ever recorded in Ohio remains difficult to enumerate, owing to potential overlap of wide-ranging flocks, although it is plausible as many as 100 birds were involved. A flock of 30 put down at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., *Wyandot* 9-12 Apr (SM, ph. IS). This was followed by 18 at Muddy Creek Bay, *Ottawa* 13 May (JBo), and a flight 31 May involving 23 at Cedar Point N.W.R., *Lucas* (DSr, Bryant Dossman) and 14 over Walbridge Park, Maumee River, *Lucas* (SPr). Up to 10 birds were resident elsewhere within the Western Basin marshes of *Ottawa* and *Lucas* 11-14 May (Harry Fuller, m.ob.), and 5 were e. to Charles Mill Lake, *Richland* 5 Apr (GC).

Away from Lake Erie, single Snowy Egrets in Ohio appeared in *Hamilton* 19 May (KW), *Lake* 12 May (ph. CCh), *Logan* 3 May (DGo), and *Geauga* 9 Apr (Dgo); the latter was an exceptionally early arrival for ne. Ohio. Rarely detected away from Lake Erie in spring, single ad. Little Blue Herons were documented from the Lake Plain in *Henry* 29 Apr (ph. Neil Baus) and *Hancock* 4 May (RSs) and farther s. in *Franklin* 16 May (Marcia Brehmer, m.ob.) and *Montgomery* 29 May (Chris Zacharias). Unexpected away from se. Pennsylvania in spring, a Little Blue Heron was at Greenlick Run Lake, *Fayette* 7 May (Tim Andersen, Laura Hahn). A Cattle Egret, now a rarity in Pennsylvania after its extirpation as a locally abundant breeder in *Lancaster* in 1988, was at Gremar Road Pond, *Northampton* 1-3 May (Billy Weber). Of occasional occurrence in the west, a Cattle Egret was e. to *Holmes*, OH 27 Apr (Bruce Glick). There were at least 12 active Yellow-crowned Night-Heron nests at the slowly growing colony in Harrisburg, *Dauphin* this spring (TJ). This urban cluster of stick nests in tall, neighborhood Sycamore trees is the only active colony in Pennsylvania. Away from se. Pennsylvania, Glossy Ibis are rare in the Region; noteworthy was one at Shenango W.A., *Mercer* 9 May (Steve Sanford, ph. GM). Two ad. *Plegadis* at Farneal Nature Preserve, *Hamilton*, OH 28 Apr–4 May (m.ob.) generated much discussion; one was almost certainly a Glossy × White-faced hybrid, while the other appeared most like White-faced but with a few atypical features.

VULTURES THROUGH GOATSUCKERS

Extralimital Black Vultures n. to the Lake Plain in Ohio included singles in *Hancock* 9 May (SM) and *Ottawa* 8 May (Mark Gionet). Ohio hosted multiple Mississippi Kites: one in *Summit* 22 May (ph. Craig Caldwell), 2 over Pearson Park, *Lucas* 6 May (ph. Lee Adams), and one at Ottawa and Magee 15 May (ph. IS, ME, Russell Conrad). Quite a few were reported from se. Pennsylvania, with one at Oxford Valley Mall, *Bucks* 22 May (Gerry Dewaghe, Chris Dewaghe) and 2 at Bucktoe Creek Preserve, *Chester* 20 May (Larry Lewis, Kelly Nunn, Hank Davis, Kathleen Pileggi) the only ones documented. Hawk Mountain Sanctuary recorded a **Swallow-tailed Kite** 28 Apr following a period of southerly winds (*fide* LGo). Another was seen near Fort Washington S.P., *Montgomery*, PA 11 May (Langhorne Smith, Hugh Sargeart, Henry Crouter, Bob Ridgely). Two were reported from Ohio, one at Cedar Bog State Nature Preserve, *Champaign* 4 May (ph. James Rhyne et al.; first county record) and one without full details in *Clermont* 25 Apr. A Golden Eagle over Columbus, OH 12 Apr (Alicia Brunner, Elizabeth Erickson) was an exciting find. A late Golden was in *Lake*, OH 15 May (HP), and 53 were tallied at Tussey Mountain, *Centre*, PA 10 Mar (*fide* LGo), the highest single day count of the spring. The only acceptably documented reports of Northern Goshawk in Ohio were singles in *Lake* 2 Mar (HP) and at Conneaut 18 Apr (Gabe Leidy, Emil Bacik, VF). Possibly resident, a female was still at Cranberry Glades, *Pocahontas*, WV 3 May (Sharon Kearns, Catherine Bailey).

A **Black Rail** was recorded singing 20 May+ near Reading, *Berks* (Kathy Grimm). The Pennsylvania Game Commission preserved the remains of a dead **Clapper Rail** found at Chambersburg, *Franklin*, PA 17 Apr (*fide* Dale Gearhart), and flight calls of a Clapper/King Rail were recorded 16 May at a nocturnal recording station in Elkins Park, *Montgomery*, PA. A King Rail was cooperative at John Heinz N.W.R., *Philadelphia*, PA 27-29 May (Debbie Beer, Linda Widdop, Michael Rosengarten). King Rail reports in Ohio included 2 at Winous Point, *Ottawa* 20 May (JBo), 2 at Big Island W.M.A., *Marion* 29 May (DGo), and one at Killbuck Marsh W.M.A., *Wayne* 15 May (KM). Early arrivals of Soras were noted at Crooked Run, *Clermont*, OH 22-23 Mar (ph. Kathi Hutton) and at Spring Valley W.M.A., *Greene*, OH 14 Mar (JHg).

After an initial sighting of a very early bird 9 Apr at Winous Point, *Ottawa* (JBo), 4 Black-necked Stilts were present 7 May (JBo), with numerous sightings of one or 2 birds at several locations in adjacent *Sandusky* 16 Apr–7 May (JBo, m.ob.) and 2 at the Blausey Unit, Ottawa N.W.R., *Ottawa*, OH 7-14 May (Cameron Cox, ph. JBo, m.ob.). Absent from the interior, American Avocet put on a remarkable show along the shoreline of Lake Erie in *Lucas*, OH. A flock of 50 was at Cedar Point N.W.R. 21 Apr (ph. DSr, Bryant Dossman), with 32 remaining 29 Apr (JBo). A flock of 41 stopped over at Maumee Bay S.P. 28 Apr (ph. Kathleen Clink, ph. Scott Jennex), and farther w. at Cullen Park another 6 set down 26 Apr (SPr et al.). An American Golden-Plover at Presque Isle, *Erie*, PA 8 May (DM) was the only one for Pennsylvania this spring. A banded ad. Piping Plover visited Presque Isle, *Erie* 14-15 May (Jason Fidorra); an unbanded individual appeared there 30 May (Roger Donn). Three sightings of Piping Plover from the Western Basin were encouraging, from Camp Perry beach, *Ottawa* 29-30 Apr (ph. DSr, ph. DC, JBo, m.ob.), Crane Creek estuary, *Lucas* 13 May (JBo, Keith Norris, JHy, m.ob.), and Cedar Point N.W.R., *Lucas* 11 May (TK, Elliot Tramer). Another visited the Eastern Basin at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, PA 14-15 May (Jason Fridora, ph. Jeff McDonald et al.).

Like avocets, Willets' poor showing

Most unexpected, even after such a extensive flight of the species out of range in autumn 2012, was this Say's Phoebe at Thompson Bay, Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania 17 April 2013. *Photograph by Jerry McWilliams.*

through the w. interior was more than amply compensated for by outstanding counts within the Western Basin. A flock of 26 on South Bass Island, *Ottawa* 28 Apr (AJ) represents a record tally for the Lake Erie Islands. Mainland concentrations were led by 48 at Winous Point, *Ottawa* 27 Apr (DSr, JBo), 54 at Cullen Park, *Lucas* near the mouth of the Maumee River 1 May (Michael DeLong), and farther upstream 42 at Walbridge Park, *Lucas* 27 Apr (TK, SPr et al., m.ob.). Nesting Upland Sandpipers hold on at six interior Ohio locations. Notable was a single bird in *Washington*, OH 13 May (KC), a rare sight in Appalachia. Whimbrels were scarce, with one Ohio inland sighting at Killbuck Marsh W.M.A., *Wayne* 27 Apr (ph. Amber Hart, m.ob.) and a flock of 45 at Winous Point, *Ottawa* 20 May (JBo). Rare away from the se. part of the Region or Lake Erie, 4 Whimbrels stopped at Yellow Creek S.P., *Indiana*, PA 28 May (Margaret Hibee, Roger Higbee, Mike Shaffer) for a second county record. A record fallout of Marbled Godwits brought flocks of 13 to Pickerington Ponds, *Franklin*, OH 17 Apr (ph. IS, JPo, m.ob.), with 15 at Buck Creek S.P., *Clark* 28 Apr (DO, BM, Julie Karlson) and 11 at Winous Point, *Ottawa* 19 Apr (ph. JBo, DSr). These were presaged by a very early bird at Newtown gravel pits, *Hamilton* 7 Apr (ph. BWu). This was among the best springs for Ruff in Ohio, with singles at Shreve Fish Pond, *Wayne* 2-6 Apr (Ken Ostermiller, ph. JBo, ph. Coel DiFabio, ph. PHu, SL, m.ob.), Big Island W.M.A., *Marion* 30 Apr (Richard Bradley), Ottawa N.W.R. (Blausey Unit) 4 May (SD, David True, m.ob.), and Boss Unit, Ottawa N.W.R. 4-7 May (ph. Christopher Taylor, ph. Drew Weber, m.ob.).

Skywatching for shorebird migrants coming off Delaware Bay in late May has been popular for over a decade in se. Pennsylvania. The flight is most evident in the evening. This year, visible migration observations near Quakertown, *Bucks* included 150 Red Knots 29 May and 200 Sanderlings 30 May (Devich Farbotnik). In *Chester*, a skywatch from Bucktoe Creek Preserve spotted 100 Whimbrels migrating 27 May (Larry Lewis, m.ob.); this was also the peak day for Whimbrels departing the Virginia shore for Toronto, ON, with 2492 birds counted in the evening (AL et al.). The lone Stilt Sandpiper for the Region came from the Darby Unit, Ottawa N.W.R., *Ottawa*, OH 14 May (JBo). Stilt Sandpiper is rare in the spring, so 2 this season were noteworthy, one at Dunnings Creek Wetlands, *Bedford*, PA 24 Apr (Tom Dick), the other at Kreider's Pond near Annville, *Lebanon* 11 May (AM, Dan Snell).

A rare Regional spring record of Purple Sandpiper was provided by one on the Cleveland lakefront 7 Mar (Daniel McCament). A weak flight of Wilson's Phalarope through the w. portion of the Region numbered only 2 birds in the Western Basin 10-31 May and 6 within the interior of Ohio 21 Apr–14 May. Singles were found in Pennsylvania at Yellow Creek S.P., *Indiana* 25 May (Evelyn Fowles, Mike Fowles) and Kreider's Pond near Annville, *Lebanon* 20 May (Jim Fiorentio). Red-necked Phalaropes, expected in spring in small numbers, were found in seven Pennsylvania counties. Well above average, 10 Red-neckeds were located across Ohio 10-29 May in *Wayne* (KM et al.), *Marion* (Andy Sewell m.ob.), *Hancock* (RSs et al.), *Ottawa* (JBo), and *Lucas* (SD et al.). In West Virginia, the species is rather rarer, but 2 were found in *Berkeley* 7 May (Carol Del-Colle) and 2 in *Tucker* 9 May (LeJay Graffious), both within the Panhandle and both part of a widespread inland fallout of both pelagic phalaropes in the East 6-9 May. Regionally very rare in spring, Red Phalaropes were found at Battelle-Darby Creek Metropark, *Franklin*, OH 13-15 May (JPo, ph. IS, ph. LK, ph. Jen Moore, m.ob.) and in *Franklin*, PA 9-10 May (AM, V. Barnes, m.ob.). In Pennsylvania, singles were at Greenlick Run Lake, *Fayette* 7 May (Tim Andersen, Laura Hahn); at Greencastle Reservoir, *Franklin* 9 May (Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart); at the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster* 15 May (Bob Schutsky); at Williamsport, *Lycoming* 11 May (ph. Nate Fronk); and at SGL 236, *Susquehanna* 5 May (Sherry Sparks). Most of these were also associated with the early May fallout and its aftermath.

A late Black-headed Gull was at Conneaut 24-26 May (ph. Chris Swan, MV); another was at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, PA 17-26 Mar (ph. Shannon Thompson, Richard Nugent, m.ob.). Single Laughing Gulls reached the interior at Indian Lake, *Logan* 3 May (DGo), at Funk Bottoms W.A., *Wayne* 18 May (ph. KM), along the Cleveland lakefront 25 May (JBr), and at Conneaut 26-30 May (MV, ph. LK, JHy, m.ob.). An extraordinary spring record from Appalachian Ohio came from Dillon Reservoir, *Muskingum* 17-19 Mar (SL, Susan Nash, m.ob.). Six widely scattered Franklin's Gulls were found across Ohio 1-25 Apr (GC, TDu, JLo, Rebecca Hinkle, DGo, JBr, m.ob.). Still unexpected well away from Lake Erie in Ohio, noteworthy singles were at Hoover 3 Apr (Gene Stauffer) and at

SA The gull show at Presque Isle, *Erie*, PA was nothing short of extraordinary in Mar. After a warm front with strong southerly winds moved through 10-11 Mar, the Region settled back into a freeze. Shortly thereafter, large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls arrived, eventually peaking at 50,000 (JM). On 24 Mar, **12** gull species were documented at Presque Isle, including several Little Gulls, Black-headed Gull (one of 2 found in the area during that week), Franklin's Gull, a first-cycle Black-legged Kittiwake (Pennsylvania's second spring record; *Erie*'s first spring record), and a Thayer's Gull among more regular species (GM, Ben Coulter, Mike Weible, JM). The dozen species at Presque Isle 24 Mar marks the greatest gull diversity ever recorded in one day at a single Pennsylvania site. The concentration of small gulls at Presque Isle was particularly impressive, and Little Gulls appeared in unprecedented numbers for Pennsylvania. The peak count was a minimum **52** individuals 27 Mar (TJ, Cory DeStein)—a remarkable count for anywhere in North America and exceeded by relatively few U.S. or Canadian counts. One of the Little Gulls seen 27 Mar (TJ) had a long, pink ribbon attached to its back; this distinctive bird was later found across Lake Erie at Erieau Harbor, ON 29 Apr (*fide* GM).

This migrant Clay-colored Sparrow at the Naval Business Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 10 April 2013 was a rarity for the city. *Photograph by George L. Armistead.*

St. Mary's Fish Hatchery, *Auglaize* 23-28 Mar (Chris Bowers, Jill Bowers, TDu). A Glaucous Gull, rare within the Allegheny foothills, was at Evans Lake, *Mahoning*, OH 23 Mar (JHy). Increasingly frequent, though still not annual within the Region, a Least Tern was at the mouth of South Creek, *Sandusky*, OH 31 May (ph. JBo, ph. DSr, Bryant Dossman). An ad. Least Tern reported at Presque Isle, *Erie*, PA 31 May (DM) was the first for the county in 23 years. Bluffton, *Allen*, OH proved a new location for Eurasian Collared-Dove 16 May (Linda Houshower). Now annual within the Region, single White-winged Doves appeared in *Clinton*, OH 29 May (ph. Bob Powell) and along Edisonville Rd., *Lancaster*, PA 26 May (Tom Raub). An unidentified hummingbird was at Toledo, OH 22 Mar (MRz). The 4 Rufous Hummingbirds that overwintered in Pennsylvania continued into this season in *Chester* and *Montgomery*. The only Snowy Owl in Pennsylvania this season was at Dunnings Creek Wetlands and Whitetail Wetlands, *Bedford*, PA 15-18 Mar (Connie Hunt). A singing male Chuck-will's-widow returned to Fort Indiantown Gap, *Lebanon*, PA 30 Apr–14 May; this was the fourth spring in a row with the species detected in this location (TJ, m.ob.).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Say's Phoebe was at Presque Isle, *Erie*, PA 14-20 Apr (DM). A Northern Shrike tarried at Lake Erie Bluffs Metropark, *Lake*, OH 15 Apr (ph. JP, Andy Avram); another rare Apr sighting involved a shrike in *Cuyahoga*, OH 9 Apr (Terri Martincic). Fish Crows continue to be reliably reported from the University/Shaker Heights area of e. *Cuyahoga*, OH, with up to 3 there 15 May (AJ). Audio and photographic documentation was obtained of 3 birds on the shore of Lake Erie at Lakefront Reservation, *Cuyahoga* 14 May (AJ). Additional reports from ne. Ohio will be reviewed. The last report of the *Knox*, OH Common Raven came 3 Apr (ph. DSr). The only other Ohio report was from *Harrison* 8 Apr (SP). Single ravens at two locations in *Tyler*, WV 27 May (Terry Bronson) were unique for this county along the Ohio River. Targeted efforts to find Smith's Longspurs within the agricultural fields of *Mercer*, OH, along the Indiana line, successfully located many, with 88 in one flock 27 Apr (JBr et al.) and 11 still present 3 May (Sam Corbo). A late Snow Bunting was described from La Due Reservoir, *Geauga*, OH 7 May (*fide* Keith Lott).

A very early Orange-crowned Warbler was described from Riverbend R.A., *Hancock*, OH 24 Mar (SM, JLo, RSs). Connecticut Warblers were found at their easternmost regular spring location in the Region at Presque Isle, *Erie* 25 & 28 May (Russ States, JM). A Kentucky Warbler was early and rare 25 Apr–1 May at Presque Isle, *Erie*, PA (Mike Plyler). Two, possibly 3 different Kirtland's Warblers were present at Magee Marsh, *Lucas*, OH 14-15 May (m.ob.). An exceptionally early Canada Warbler was described from *Clermont*, OH 17 Apr (Wyatt Westerkamp).

SA A **Bahama Woodstar** attended feeders at the home of Ruth Witmer in Denver, *Lancaster*, PA 20-24 Apr. Witmer notified Scott Weidensaul of the presence of an unusual hummingbird, and Sandy Lockerman banded the bird 22 Apr. Lockerman noted a number of characteristics at odds with the proposed initial identification of Broad-tailed Hummingbird. The woodstar's identification was finally resolved by Bob Mulvihill on the morning of 24 Apr. Much to the chagrin of the roughly 300 people who came later that day to see the bird, it departed around 12:30 p.m.

Provenance does not appear to be problematic in the case of this bird; this species is not known to be held in captivity. There are four previous U.S. records of Bahama Woodstar (one of 2 individuals), all from Florida, 1961-1981. Surely, in continental terms, this is one of the most remarkable records seen in our Region, on par with Great Knot, Large-billed Tern, or Masked Duck.

Spring migrant Clay-colored Sparrows in Pennsylvania and West Virginia (away from known breeding sites) are rather rare, so e. Pennsylvania records at Weaversville, *Northampton* 30 Apr (Jim Figlar) and the Naval Business Center in Philadelphia 10 Apr (ph. GLA) were noteworthy, as was one at the Ohio River Island N.W.R. visitor center, *Wood*, WV 8 May (ph. KC). Likewise rare away from the Lake Erie Basin, one was found in *Holmes*, OH 15 May (KM). The overwintering Le Conte's Sparrow at Waterloo Mills, *Chester*, PA was last detected on 26 Apr (Kevin Fryberger). Rare spring sightings of Nelson's Sparrow in Ohio were generated

18 May from both Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve, *Lake* (ph. Tom Frankel) and Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve, *Cuyahoga* (JBr). Lark Sparrows away from expected locales in Ohio were found at Ottawa 15 May (ME) and at Erie Sand Barrens Nature Preserve, *Erie* 1 May (ph. DC). The wintering **Golden-crowned Sparrow** in *Hancock*, OH remained through 24 Apr (*fide* Tom Bartlett). A Harris's Sparrow lingered 1 Jan–5 May near Beltzville S.P., *Carbon* (Rich Rehrig, Barbara Rehrig), and the wintering bird at Pickerington Ponds, *Franklin*, OH stayed through 27 Apr (JHg, Jason Sullivan, ph. IS, ph. PHu, m.ob.). A hybrid reported nearly annually in North America, a White-throated Sparrow × Dark-eyed Junco was documented at Ottawa N.W.R., *Lucas*, OH 5 May (ph. Patti Smith).

A Summer Tanager visited a feeder in ne. *Erie*, PA 25 Apr (Tim Lyons), and another was at Spring Hill Acres, *Lebanon*, PA 8 May (Jonathan Heller), a third county record. Breeding has not been confirmed for this species in recent years after it was extirpated from its stronghold in the sw. corner of the state. Single Western Meadowlarks were located in *Wood*, OH 6 May (Stephen Vessey) and at Big Island W.A., *Marion*, OH 28 Apr–30 May (Jack Stenger, Kate Shulgina, KM, m.ob.). The Bullock's Oriole that wintered at Gilbertsville, *Montgomery*, PA for the third year in a row lingered until 28 Mar (Mary Ache). Single Brewer's Blackbirds in Ohio were reported from *Lucas* 19 Mar (SD) and *Richland* 17 Mar (GC). Four Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found at feeders in opposite corners of Pennsylvania. Two were found in *Chester*, one at Elverson 24 Mar (Bob Cook, Ruth Cook) and one at Downingtown 6 & 16 Apr (Gretchen Roth), while 2 males visited a feeder in Lake City, *Erie* 14 Apr (Elaine Gaczkowski). Rare in Ohio away from Lake Erie, one was in *Darke* 13 Apr (m.ob.).

The echo from last winter's huge winter finch flight was obvious through the spring season. Two **Hoary Redpolls** were documented among the masses of Commons that carried over into early Apr in Pennsylvania: one was near Stormstown, *Centre* 29 Mar (AL, Matt Rockmore, Drew Weber), the other along the Kittatinny Ridge in *Berks* 6-7 Apr (Steve Brady). A remarkably late Common Redpoll lingered with Pine Siskins 10 May at Bradford, *McKean*, PA (John Fedak). Pine Siskins were common throughout the season, showing little retreat even through May; this indicates the likelihood of widespread breeding within the Region. Only small numbers of Red Crossbills were found this season, with the exceptions of 90 in Huston Twp., *Clearfield*, PA 26 Mar (JBo) and 100 at Michaux S.F., *Cumberland*, PA 6 May (AM). White-winged Crossbills were more widespread than Reds in Ohio and Pennsylvania during the early part of the season; they lingered through mid-May before withdrawing. After a burst during the fall and early winter as they moved through the state, small numbers of Evening Grosbeaks were scattered across Pennsylvania this season. Reports were concentrated in the n.-cen. forested highlands, and some of these birds lingered into May.

Initialed contributors (subregional compilers in boldface): OHIO: Jen Brumfield (JBr), Cory Chiappone (CCh), Dave Clark (DC), Gary Cowell (GC), Tim Durnell (TDu), Matthew Erickson (ME), Dan Gesauldo (DGo), John Habig (JHg), Jeff Harvey (JHy), Wes Hatch (WH), Paul Hurtado (PHu), Andy Jones (AJ), Laura Keene (LK), Tom Kemp (TK), Steve Landes (SL), Jeff Loughman (JLo), Brian Menker (BM), Shane Meyers (SM), Kent Miller (KM), Haans Petruschke (HP), Doug Overacker (DO), Scott Pendleton (SP), Sherry Plessner (SPr), Jeff Pontius (JPo), Mark Rozmarynowycz (MRz), Robert Sams (RSs), Irina Shulgina (IS), Dave Slager (Dsr), Kirk Westendorf (KW), Brian Wulker (BWu). PENNSYLVANIA: Mary Ache, Tim Andersen, George L. Armistead, Debbie Beer, Justin Bosler (JBo), Steve Brady, Lee Carnahan, Jan Churney, Bob Cook, Ruth Cook, Ben Coulter, Henry Crouter, Cory DeStein, Chris Dewaghe, Gerry Dewaghe, Tom Dick, Roger Donn, Mike Dreibelbis, Devich Farbotnik, John Fedak, Jason Fidorra, Jim Figlar, Jim Fiorentio, Evelyn Fowles, Mike Fowles, Nate Fronk, Kevin Fryberger, Elaine Gaczkowski, Mark Gallagher, Carl Garner, Laura Hahn, Jonathan Heller, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Marjorie Howard, Connie Hunt, Ian Gardner, Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart, Laurie Goodrich (LGo), Kathy Grimm, **Brian Henderson** (*Montgomery*), Tom Johnson, **Rudy Keller** (*Berks*), Kathy Kern, Alex Lamoreaux, Ken Lebo, Larry Lewis, Sandy Lockerman, Meredith Lombard, Tim Lyons, **Geoff Malosh** (Pennsylvania), Andrew Markel (AM), Carol McCullough, Fred McCullough, **Jerry McWilliams** (*Erie*), **Holly Merker** (*Chester*), **August Mirabella** (*Bucks*), Donna Mohney, Drew Mortensen, Bob Mulvihill, Mike Plyler, Tom Raub, Barbara Rehrig, Rich Rehrig, Bob Ridgely, Matt Rockmore, Michael Rosengarten, Gretchen Roth, Steve Sanford, Hugh Sargeart, Bob Schutsky, Frank Sencher, Mike Shaffer, Georgia Shalak, Langhorne Smith, Sherry Sparks, Dan Snell, Russ States, Neil Troyer, Ken Truitt, Mark Vass (MV), Billy Weber, Drew Weber, Mike Weible, Scott Weidensaul, Linda Widdop, Ruth Witmer. WEST VIRGINIA: Kyle Carsen (KC).

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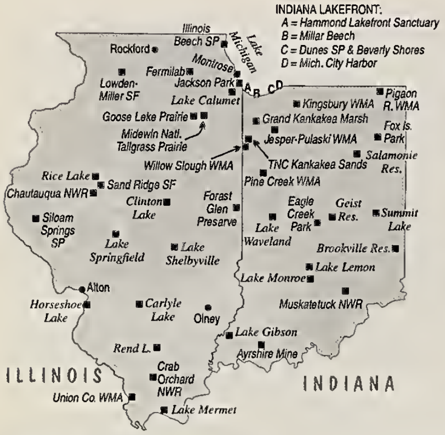
INDIANA LAKEFRONT:
A = Hammond Lakefront Sanctuary
B = Millar Beech
C = Dunes SP & Beverly Shores
D = Mich. City Harbor
Illinois Beech SP
Lake Michigan
Rockford
Montrose
Fermilab
Lowden-Miller SF
Jackson Park
Lake Calumet
A B C D
Pigaon R. WMA
Kingsbury WMA
Goose Leke Prairie
Grand Kankakea Marsh
Midewin Natl. Tallgrass Prairie
Jesper-Pulaski WMA
Fox Is. Park
Salamonie Res.
Willow Slough WMA
TNC Kankakea Sands
Rice Lake
Sand Ridge SF
Pine Creek WMA
Chautauqua NWR
Clinton Lake
Forast Glen Presarve
Eagle Creek Park
Geist Res.
Summit Lake
Siloam Springs SP
Lake Waveland
Lake Springfield
Lake Shelbyville
Brookville Res.
Lake Lemon
Lake Monroe
Alton
Horseshoe Lake
Carlyle Lake
Olney
Muskatetuck NWR
Lake Gibson
Rend L.
Ayrshire Mine
Crab Orchard NWR
ILLINOIS
INDIANA
Union Co. WMA
Lake Mermet

James D. Hengeveld
Keith A. McMullen
Geoffrey A. Williamson

With respect to temperature and precipitation, conditions this spring were almost exactly opposite of the hot, dry spring of 2012—that is, it was cool and wet. The average temperature for the entire period was nearly 5° C lower than last year's average, and the average March temperature was a full 11° C lower than that in 2012 and nearly 3° C below the long-term average. April was slightly cooler than average, but by May, temperatures had climbed to above-average levels. The excess precipitation caused major flooding along the large river systems. This led to additional habitat for waterfowl, waders, and shorebirds, but migrants were scattered rather than concentrated. The southern tier of the Region experienced several influxes of migrants during early and mid-April, while the northern tier was stuck with a stagnant Canadian-influenced weather pattern that discouraged significant northbound migration. At the end of April and beginning of May, southerly winds stimulated a movement of migrants into all portions of the Region. It is possible that following a backlog of migrants in March and early April, brought about by cold temperatures, many birds in late April and May made longer flights to the breeding grounds, bypassing normal stopover sites. Despite erratic weather systems, a good number of rarities appeared, including the bird of the season—the Region's first Spotted Redshank. Other notable species included Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Brant, Eurasian Wigeon, Mottled Duck, Cinnamon Teal, Brown Pelican, Swallow-tailed Kite, many Swainson's Hawks, Black Rail, possible Little Stint, Ruff, White-winged Dove, Say's Phoebe, Mountain Bluebird, Rock Wren, Western Tanager, and Black-headed Grosbeak.

Abbreviations: Bellrose (Bellrose Reserve at Cypress Creek N.W.R., *Pulaski*, IL); Bev. Sh. (Beverly Shores, *Porter*, IN); B.O.P. (Bird Observation Platform, in Dunes); Cane Ridge (Cane Ridge W.M.A., *Gibson*, IN); Carlyle (Carlyle Lake, s. Illinois); Dunes (Dunes S.P., *Porter*, IN); Eagle Slough (Eagle Slough N.A., Evansville, IN); F.P. (Forest Preserve); F.W.A. (Fish and Wildlife Area); Goose Pond (Goose Pond F.W.A., *Greene*, IN); Hennepin (Hennepin-Hopper Lake Restoration Area, *Putnam*, IL); Horseshoe (Horseshoe Lake, *Madison*, IL); Montrose (Montrose Point in Chicago's Lincoln Park); North Point Marina (at Winthrop Harbor, IL); Patoka R. (Patoka River N.W.R., *Gibson*, IN); S.N.A. (State Natural Area).

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBISES

Five **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** were enjoyed by many near Havana, *Mason*, IL 11-13 Apr (AY, ph. HMH, ph. NC, m.ob.). The increase of Greater White-fronted Geese as migrants through the Region was exemplified by the 11,598 at Chau 1 Mar (R&SB). Indiana's third blue-morph Ross's Goose was at Kankakee F.W.A., *Starke* 9 Mar (RDH, FRM, ph. KKM). Indiana's first **Brant** since 2008 remained near Middlebury, *Elkhart* from 25-28 Apr (LY, ph. J&EH, m.ob.). An excellent count of 156 Tundra Swans was noted near Hebron, *McHenry*, IL 28 Mar (D&MC). Excellent numbers of Gadwall were seen this spring; a female flushed from a field at Goose Pond 28 May (DW) and a male seen in the same area 31 May (SEH) raised the possibility of a nesting attempt there. With only a handful of records for Indiana, noteworthy were male **Eurasian Wigeons** seen along the Patoka River 12-14 Apr (EMH, CEM, BF, m.ob.) and at the Grant Street Wetland, *Lake* 7-10 May (RJS, KH, PDRH, m.ob.), the latter providing the first record for the Indiana Lake Michigan lakefront since 1981. Another male Eurasian Wigeon was an exciting find 18 May at Hennepin (†REF, KDF, ph. ASA, EWW). Two rare **Mottled Ducks** were at Montrose 30 May (†LGM, ph. KH). A male **Cinnamon Teal** was seen at Pecatonica, *Winnebago*, IL 26-29 Apr (ph. RLV, DTW, SG, m.ob.). An impressive 14,484 Northern Pintails were counted at Chau 1 Mar (R&SB), while the 10,000 tallied at Goose Pond 2 Mar (AK) exceeded the next highest spring count for Indiana by nearly 4000.

A male Harlequin Duck seen 14-21 Mar in Chicago's Jackson Park (KMC, ph. JRRS, ph. GAW, m.ob.) represented the only record of the season. A total of 25 Surf Scoters was reported. White-winged Scoters made a splash this spring in the Region, with over 500 birds reported, including an Indiana state-record 165 at Michigan City Harbor, *LaPorte* and Bev. Sh. 23 Mar (JBD et al.). Only 7 Black Scoters were reported, all from Indiana. Long-tailed Ducks fared rather well, as highlighted by the 13 seen at Winthrop Harbor, *Lake*, IL 6 Apr (BJS). Greater Prairie-Chickens continue their decline. Only 22 were counted at the traditional nesting area at Prairie Ridge S.N.A., *Jasper*, IL 8 Apr (RES).

There seems to be no end to the increase in Red-throated Loon numbers in the Region. An Indiana state record was set 4 Apr when 169 were counted from B.O.P. (BJG). Of the 14 seen in Illinois, the maximum count was of 5 at Illinois Beach S.P., *Lake* 8 Apr (RDH, KKM). Notably, 4 Pacific Loons were reported, all in Indiana: at B.O.P. 4 Apr (BJG), 14 Apr (JJM), and 18 May (BJG) and at Bev. Sh. 19 May (JJM). An incredible 352 Common Loons were tallied across several lakes in *Lake* and *McHenry*, IL 6 Apr (DBJ). Five Red-necked Grebes and an impressive total of 17 Eared Grebes were reported in the Region, with 2 of the latter at Nelson Lake F.P., *Kane*, IL 4 May (JLt, ASA, SAC) and a late bird at Paul Douglas F.P., *Cook*, IL 18 May+ (AFr, KAM, MSS, TLK, m.ob.). On 15 Mar, a Western Grebe in the Ohio River at Jeffersonville (EH) provided the first *Clark*, IN record since 1975. Two of the wintering Western Grebes at Port of Indiana, *Porter*, lingered through 31 Mar (PS). A single was seen near Hamilton, *Hancock*, IL 29 Apr (MJB, *fide* DJM).

Double-crested Cormorants continue to thrive within the Region, as 8000 were noted at Carlyle 14 Apr (DMK). Two Anhingas were at the Cache River S.N.A., *Johnson*, IL 13 Apr (MM-L). A **Brown Pelican** photographed at Horseshoe 30 May (ph. WMR) was gone by the afternoon. Waders were reported in poor numbers across the Region. This may have been a result of the spring flooding, which scattered birds across numerous areas, many of which were not accessible by the birding community. An ad. Tricolored Heron was seen at Goose Pond 8 (LWS et al.) & 29 May (LWS, ph. MRB et al.). Numbers of *Plegadis* continue to increase in the Region. Two ad. Glossy Ibis included one at Goose Pond 11 May (DRW, BD, JLG) and another at Greenview Wetland, *Woodford*, IL 24 May (†THa). Of 7 White-faced Ibis reported in Indiana, 2 at Goose Pond 22 Apr (DR, AK) established a new early date for Indiana. One at Spring Lake State F.W.A. *Tazewell*, IL 14 Apr (MJW) was even earlier; at least 22 total White-faceds were noted in Illinois, with 5 at Emiquon 12 May (JIE et al.) constituting the largest group. Two additional reports of unidentified *Plegadis* came from Illinois.

HAWKS THROUGH CRANES

The Indiana lakefront's fourth record of Black Vulture was confirmed 22 Apr at B.O.P. (vt.

BJG). Another exciting find was the Indiana lakefront's first **Swallow-tailed Kite** since 1948 that was seen at B.O.P. 18 May (BJG, BB, AF). A second **Swallow-tailed Kite** lingered near Buck Creek, *Tippecanoe*, IN 29 May+ (KA, EMH, m.ob.). Mississippi Kites continue to appear well n. of their usual breeding range in the s. tier. One appeared in *Kane*, IL 29 Apr (EES); the breeding pair returned to Rockford, *Winnebago*, IL 17 May (JLo); one appeared in nw. *LaPorte*, IN for the third consecutive year, this time on the outskirts of Michigan City 17 May (LSH); a single was at Collinson Ecological Preserve, *Rock Island*, IL 17 May (StH); and another was in *Lee*, IL 27 May (MJB). Part of a fine flight of Northern Harriers, an Indiana state-record tally of 90 was made at B.O.P. 14 Apr (BJG). Two Northern Goshawks were also observed at B.O.P.: an imm. 15 Apr (BJG, BB) and a subad. 26 Apr (BJG, ph. JCK).

Single Yellow Rails were discovered at Goose Pond 22 Apr (LWS) and at Karl Bartel Grassland, *Marion*, IL 6 May (TAM, KAM). The only Black Rail reported was a 22 May window casualty in Chicago found by Dave Stagman and taken to the Field Museum (ph. JIE; *). Whooping Cranes from the e. migratory flock are overwintering and stopping within the Region in increasing numbers. Beside the approximately 30 birds that spent the winter in w.-cen. and sw. Indiana and at least 4 birds that overwintered in se. Illinois, at least 5 and 9 more were known to have passed through Indiana and Illinois, respectively, the largest tally consisting of 7 birds at the AMAX Wabash Mine, *Wabash*, IL 19 Mar (CLH, RES).

SA In most springs, migrant Swainson's Hawks move through the Region undetected; among these are the few breeding pairs that remain in the Region, in *Kane* and *McHenry*, IL. This spring saw an unprecedented number of reports in the Region, the majority in the timeframe 19-27 Apr, following several powerful weather systems that moved across the Plains, packing strong southerly/southwesterly winds. These strong weather patterns likely pushed Swainson's Hawks from their normal, more westerly migratory paths eastward into the Region.

Table 1. Records of Swainson's Hawks in Illinois and Indiana, 19 April–8 May 2013.

Date	No.	Location	Observer
19 Apr	1	Nachusa Grasslands, *Lee*, IL	NB
20 Apr	1	Burlington, *Kone*, IL	KML
20 Apr	1	*McDonough*, IL	DBe, CO
20 Apr	2	Prairie Ridge S.N.A., *Morion*, IL	ph. TAM, ph. CLH, m.ob
20 Apr	1	*Jacksan*, IL	RSR, DMu
20 Apr	1	*Knox*, IL	DJM
21 Apr	2	Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, *Will*, IL	BJS
21 Apr	1	*Hancack*, IL	AMR, PJR
21 Apr	1	*Peoria*, IL	Anthony, Amy, & Aidan Jones
22 Apr	1	*Sullivan*, IN	ph. JP
26 Apr	3	*Tozewell*, IL	ph. CKM
27 Apr	1	*Adoms*, IL	AMR, PJR
27 Apr	1	*Margan*, IL	TW, CD
27 Apr	1	*Lake*, IN	BB
27 Apr	1	*Newton*, IN	ph. J&EH
30 Apr	1	*Lake*, IL	RBi
4 May	2	Burlington, *Kane*, IL	BLk
8 May	3	*Kane/McHenry*, IL	R&AM

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Black-necked Stilts continue to increase in number in the Region, as exemplified by the 64 in *Monroe*, IL 19 May (C&PD). They have also expanded their range; establishing new records for their respective Indiana counties were one at Chinook Mine, *Vigo* 21 Apr (PES), 3 in *Adams* 1 May (TG), 2 at McCool Basin, *Porter* 17 May (JJM), and 2 in *Kosciusko* 29 May (AC et al.). Part of a fine flight, the 22 American Avocets at Monty's Station, *Gibson* 29 Apr (EMH) represented Indiana's third largest tally; 12 seen at Whalon Lake F.P., *Will*, IL 28 Apr (MAM, VS) was the highest tally for Illinois. Surprisingly early was a Black-bellied Plover in *Livingston*, IL 15 Apr (BeM, ShA). An amazing flock of 20,000+ American Golden-Plovers was observed at Carlyle 7 Apr (DMK). Numbers were disturbingly low in Indiana, and there is some concern that declining numbers are due to the proliferation of wind turbines in the heart of the plovers' migratory pathway. Impressive were 100 Semipalmated Plovers at AMAX Wabash Mine, *Wabash*, IL 19 May (CLH). Two Piping Plovers, rare inland, were observed in *Sangamon*, IL 20 Apr (HDB); 6 other singles were reported from Lake Michigan locations. An eager Solitary Sandpiper returned to Carlyle 25 Mar (ph. DMK). Willets pushed through the Region in good numbers, with six counts of 20+ birds highlighted by the 41 seen at Farina Wetland, *Fayette*, IL 29 Apr (EWW). A lone Whimbrel was seen at Montrose 22 May (DBJ, AFS, LeM, m.ob.). Godwits were in good numbers this spring, with 21 Hudsonians and 48 Marbleds reported in the Region. A fairly early Hudsonian was at Bellrose 18 Apr (KAM), while the maximum count of 14 Marbleds at Goose Pond 27 Apr (RR, C&CW, LN) provided Indiana's seventh highest tally.

Among the highest spring total of Ruddy Turnstones reported in Indiana since 1982, 18 were logged at Lake Gibson, *Gibson* 23 May (CEM). A Red Knot was present at Montrose 22 May (DBJ, AFS, LeM, m.ob.); 5 were seen at Chicago's Jackson Park 28 May (WSS, ph. MCv, m.ob.). A male **Ruff** was in *Whiteside*, IL 3 May (ph., †DHo, CK, ph. MTn). An ad. **Little Stint**, a first for the Region if accepted, was seen and photographed at Carlyle 13 Apr (DMK); expert opinions gathered to date have been supportive of the identification. Long-billed Dowitchers appeared in above-average numbers, with a single at Goose Pond 19 Mar (EMH) representing Indiana's fourth earliest record. Wilson's Phalaropes were plentiful this season, possibly pushed into the Region by the strong storms in the Plains. Four counts of 10+ birds were received, including a high of 26 at Farina Wetland, *Fayette*, IL 29 Apr (KAM, MSS, EWW). Red-necked Phalaropes were also present in higher-than-average numbers, as 4 were at Techny Basin C.A., *Cook*, IL 25 May (CSF, m.ob.) and 6 in *Lee*, IL 26 May (DHo).

SA On 28 Mar at Goose Pond, Kirk Roth found the Region's first **Spotted Redshank**, a bird in nonbreeding plumage. It lingered through 1 Apr and was seen by hundreds of birders. After not having been seen for four+ weeks, perhaps having gone to a more protected location to undergo molt, it was found again 30 Apr (KR) in virtually the same location where it had been found originally. Now in breeding plumage, it was seen through the evening of 6 May (LWS, m.ob.).

Many of the large gulls lingered. The latest Thayer's Gull was seen at Waukegan, *Lake*, IL 24 Apr (PWS), while first-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at B.O.P. 15 May (BJG) and at Winthrop Harbor, *Lake*, IL through 24 May (EWW). A first-cycle Glaucous Gull remained through 10 May at Hammond Bird Sanctuary, *Lake*, IN (JJM) and an imm. at Waukegan, *Lake*, IL 3 May (ASe) was a little tardy as well. Six Caspian Terns seen in *Sangamon*, IL 29 Mar (HDB) were well ahead of schedule.

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

A **White-winged Dove** was an unexpected backyard surprise in Belvidere, *Boone*, IL 10 May (ph. LHe). A Barn Owl made an appearance at Montrose 16 Apr (JNN); 6 other Barn Owls were reported in the Region. Lingering Snowy Owls included one in *White*, IN 15 Mar (ph. JS) that remained through at least 6 Apr (TGr) and another in *Will*, IL 24 Apr (CMA, MAM). Late to depart was a Short-eared Owl in *Boone*, IL 2 May (AO). Following a long dry spell at the Indiana Lake Michigan lakefront, a wintering Northern Saw-whet Owl was found in Bev. Sh. 16 Mar (RJP, JKC, SRB, KJB et al.) and lingered through 13 Apr. Nightjar numbers and arrival dates were normal; however, a Chuck-will's-widow seen at Columbus Park, *Cook*, IL 19 May (ErG, AaG, EtG) was noteworthy. An ad. male Rufous Hummingbird was photographed at a feeder in Hammond, *Lake* 18-20 Apr (KHa), providing the first record for the Indiana Lake Michigan lakefront. An amazing count of 346 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers made at B.O.P. 7 Apr (BJG) smashed the previous one-day record for Indiana.

An imm. dark-morph Gyrfalcon was reported from *Sangamon*, IL 19 Apr (HDB). Following a three-year hiatus in the report of spring migrants, multiple Prairie Falcons were reported in Indiana. One provided a first record for *Posey* on 16 Mar (AK); another was at Goose Pond 21 Mar (LWS); the same or perhaps a different bird was at Goose Pond 3 Apr (DRW, BD, JLG), providing a first Apr record for Indiana; and an ad. se. of Lyons, *Greene* 11 May (DRW, BD, JLG) furnished Indiana's first May record. The last reported date for the Prairie Falcon in *Coles*, IL was 14 Mar (ABB).

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported in above-average numbers. Ten were seen at North Pond in downtown Chicago 29 May (SJH). An excellent tally of 41 Acadian Flycatchers was made in *Jackson*, IL 19 May (RSR). The 28 Least Flycatchers tallied at Dunes 10 May (BJG) and the 34 Eastern Phoebes logged at B.O.P. 30 Mar (BJG) each represented the second highest count of those species in Indiana. Two **Say's Phoebes** were reported, one at Carlyle 17 May (DMK) and one at Winthrop Harbor, *Lake*, IL 24 Apr (JSS, †JWL, JOS). A Western Kingbird returned to its normal breeding territory at Granite City, *Madison*, IL 4 May (FRH). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Illinois Beach S.P., *Lake*, IL 1 May (MHu) was quickly followed by another at Dresden Lock and Dam, *Grundy*, IL 4-5 May (BTa, JAS, VS). For the declining population of Loggerhead Shrikes, the two territorial pairs found in *Orange*, IN 15 Apr and a new territorial pair in *Daviess*, IN 24 Apr (AK, LWS) offered a glimmer of hope.

In a good spring for vireos generally, the peak tally for Bell's Vireo consisted of 68 at two locations in *Sullivan*, IN 16 May (DRW, JLG). An Indiana state record count of 12 Blue-headed Vireos was made at Dunes 10 May (BJG). An Indiana record count of 7264 Blue Jays was recorded at B.O.P. 1 May (BJG). The incidence or at least the reporting of Fish Crows in sw. Indiana has become much more commonplace over the past few years. Indiana's earliest ever reports came on 16 Mar at Evansville (HDH) and 20 Mar at Patoka River N.W.R., *Pike* (HDH, SG). Fish Crows continue to expand their range northward in the Region as well; a single bird was noted in Springfield, *Sangamon*, IL 5 May (HDB).

An early Northern Rough-winged Swallow made an appearance at East Fork Lake, *Richland*, IL 16 Mar (CLH). Indiana's second **Rock Wren** was found w. of Howe, *LaGrange* 16 May (JAM, BM, EM, m.ob.) and was obliging for many birders through 19 May. Sedge Wrens were virtually nonexistent in Indiana, with only 2 reported, the lowest total since 1991. Two single Bewick's Wrens were noted in separate *Sangamon*, IL locations 17-18 Apr (HDB); one was reported at the usual breeding location in Siloam Springs S.P., *Adams*, IL 18 May (KAM, MSS). An ad. male **Mountain Bluebird** that overwintered was last seen in the first week of Mar at Lost Mound, *Carroll*, IL (*fide* NG). A Veery seen in *Marion*, IL 20 Apr (TDF, TAM) was early. Indiana's second earliest Gray-cheeked Thrush ever was discovered at Wesselman Woods N.P., Evansville 20 Apr (ES). At Mounds S.R.A., *Franklin*, a Hermit Thrush was well described 25 May (BDe), furnishing Indiana's second latest (and the s. tier's latest) record. The imm. male Varied Thrush that overwintered in an Evanston, *Cook*, IL backyard was last seen 6 Apr (JKa, ph. JeA, CLu). An excellent spring flight of Cedar Waxwings included an amazing 11,373 at B.O.P. 29 May (BJG), providing Indiana's second largest daily count. Though fewer Smith's Longspurs than normal were reported in the Region, the tally of 85 in *Newton*, IN 21 Apr (JJM) was a good peak count; 3 lingered until 4 May at Illinois Beach S.P., *Lake*, IL (BJS).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Louisiana Waterthrush was record early at Ewing Park, *McLean*, IL 14 Mar (JPh). A Brewster's Warbler was seen at Miller-Anderson Woods S.P., *Bureau*, IL 5 May (DFS). An Indiana state maximum was achieved during the 10 May fallout when 45 Black-and-white Warblers were seen at Dunes (BJG). A Swainson's Warbler seen in w.-cen. Illinois at Quincy, *Adams*, IL 10-21 May (AMR, PJR, ph. CD, ph. TAM, m.ob.) was an exciting find and likely an overshoot of the few remaining breeders in extreme s. Illinois. The Orange-crowned Warbler that wintered in *Elkhart*, IN was still present 4 Mar (LS, GC); one in *Cook*, IL 28 May (JSA) was late to depart. During the 10 May fallout, 13 Orange-crowned and 88 Nashville Warblers were tallied at Dunes (BJG), both totals more than doubling the previous Indiana spring maxima. A Hooded Warbler at Montrose 22 May (MD, m.ob.) was unexpected for this lakefront location. A Cape May Warbler near Pomona, *Jackson*, IL 19 Apr (KAM) was a week early, as was a Blackburnian Warbler at Crystal Lake Park, *Champaign*, IL 17 Apr (MRi). A high count of 12 Canada Warblers came from LaBagh Woods F.P., *Cook*, IL 26 May (MLPR).

Three Spotted Towhees were reported from Illinois. As the highest counts of American Tree Sparrows are typically in winter, impressive was the tally of 479 at Clinton Lake, *DeWitt*, IL 1 Mar (MEF). It was a good season for Clay-colored Sparrows in Indiana, where 17 were found. Equally impressive were 49 Grasshopper Sparrows at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, *Will*, IL 19 May (JAS). It was an excellent season for Harris's Sparrow in the Region, with at least 10 reported from the Region, all but one from Illinois; the latest report was from Chicago's Jackson Park 16 May (RLS). Frank Bennett's New Columbia backyard in *Massac*, IL hosted both an early Summer Tanager and a Scarlet Tanager 10 Apr. A **Western Tanager** was present in a Warsaw, *Hancock*, IL backyard 14-28 Apr (ph. JDP, ph. LEF). A subad. **Black-headed Grosbeak** was a one-day wonder at a River Forest, *Cook*, IL feeder 30 May (ph. JSA, DJA, m.ob.). A new early arrival date was established for Blue Grosbeak in Indiana when one was found at Goose Pond 10 Apr (DRW, DA, JE).

Unusual was a female Yellow-headed Blackbird that lingered at a feeder in Mount Vernon, *Posey*, IN 30 Mar–20 Apr (L&JH); an ad. male in *Scott*, IN 27-28 Apr (ph. B&ML) provided a second county record. For a species with a declining population across its range, encouraging were the seven reports of 100+ Rusty Blackbirds from various Illinois locations. Winter finches lingered in the n. tier of the Region. The latest Purple Finch was seen at Montrose

31 May (LGM, DKA). Red Crossbills continued into the spring season: 12 were seen in *Champaign*, IL 14 Apr (SAW), while the peak tally from three locations in Indiana consisted of 9 at B.O.P. 29 May (BJG). White-winged Crossbills were more scattered across the Region. Unexpected were singles at Quincy, *Adams*, IL 29 Apr (ph. JaM) and at Galesburg, *Knox*, IL 2 May (DJM). The maximum count of Common Redpolls (200) for Indiana came from Kankakee F.W.A., *Starke* 24 Mar (DG); 3 tarried at B.O.P. 21 Apr (BJG). The wintering Hoary Redpoll remained at a Genoa, *DeKalb*, IL backyard through 6 Mar (ph. KML). An unprecedented movement of Pine Siskins occurred in Indiana in May: 863 were logged at B.O.P. 14 May and a staggering 1612 on 15 May (BJG), the latter Indiana's second highest daily count and the largest spring count by more than 1400 birds. Multiple siskins were still present beyond the end of the period. The Evening Grosbeak present since Jan in Chicago was last seen 26 Mar (MD, m.ob.). The peak count of Evening Grosbeaks in Indiana was of 6 birds at a *Brown* feeder 20 Apr (IU); the longest-staying bird was one at Bev. Sh. 10 May (JJM).

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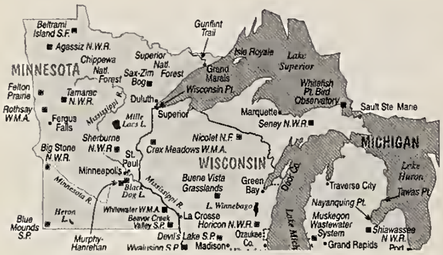
Beltrami Island S.F.
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Minnesota R.
Black Dog L.
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Ozaukee Co.
Wyalusing S.P.
Madison
Grand Rapids

Adam M. Byrne

The winter that wouldn't end, as some called it, led to a cool and wet spring across the Region. March and April brought several large snowfall events to Minnesota. In Duluth, over 50 inches (127 cm) of snow accumulated in April, eclipsing the area's previous April record by over 20 inches (51 cm)! Not to be outdone, areas in southern Minnesota received over a foot of snow in early May. Snow lingered late in Michigan, as well; at the beginning of April, the entire Upper Peninsula had over 20 inches (51 cm) of snow on the ground, and at Marquette the snow remained at that level until 27 April. As a result, prolonged lake icing delayed waterfowl migration and produced some high concentrations. Also, frozen waterways in the Great Plains, coupled with a steady succession of April storms from the west, likely forced water-dependent species eastward into our Region, in particular Eared Grebe, White-faced Ibis, American Avocet, and Marbled Godwit.

Seasonal highlights in Minnesota were the state's fourth Brown Pelican, third Wilson's Plover, fourth Brewer's Sparrow, and second Bullock's Oriole, plus three Glossy Ibis. Highlights from Wisconsin included five Eurasian Wigeons, a Mississippi Kite, and the state's fifth Lazuli Bunting. Noteworthy in Michigan were Wilson's Plover, Slaty-backed Gull, Least Tern, two Black-billed Magpies, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and the state's second Brewer's Sparrow.

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBIS

Western geese, especially Greater White-fronted and Cackling, were reported in above-average numbers in Michigan. Minnesota also reported good numbers of geese, including an early Cackling Goose in *Clay* 17 Mar (RAE) and an impressive 3500 Cacklings in *Nobles* 23 Mar (KRE, BTS). The only Brant was in *Cheboygan*, MI 28 May (WW). Five Eurasian Wigeons, mostly in Apr, was a yearly record total for Wisconsin. Single Eurasian Wigeons in *St. Clair* 27 Mar (TH), *Washtenaw* 4-7 May (DSJ, m.ob.), and *Monroe* 9-14 May (p.a., KO, m.ob.) set a record for the most spring records in Michigan. Minnesota had a drake Cinnamon Teal in *Chippewa* 29 Apr (BJU), as well as Cinnamon Teal × Blue-winged Teal hybrids in three different counties. Greater Scaup were much more abundant in Minnesota this season, including a record high count of **11,154** in *St. Louis* 28 Apr (KJB). Surf and Black Scoters were found in below-average numbers in Wisconsin. Minnesota, however, had record-high counts of 27 Surf Scoters and 11 Black Scoters in *St. Louis* 22 May (KJB). Minnesota birders found 3 Barrow's Goldeneyes, males in *Anoka/Hennepin* 9 Mar–8 Apr (CF, DWK, m.ob.) and *St. Louis* 25 Mar–16 Apr (MF, KJB, PHS, J&LK) and a female in *St. Louis* 25 Mar (KJB). Male Barrow's Goldeneyes were also found in *Jefferson* 28-29 Mar (M&SS) and *Sawyer* 27 Apr (TK), both Wisconsin.

Northern Bobwhites were reported from just four s. Michigan counties. In Wisconsin, Gray Partridge were found at four sites in three counties, with flocks up to 9 birds. Loons were present in high numbers this spring. An impressive **1632** Red-throated Loons were tallied at Whitefish Point, including a new high count of 478 on 7 May (TR). Two very early Red-throateds on 22 Apr (EB) were just the precursor to record-breaking numbers in *St. Louis*, MN, where up to 355 were counted on 8 May (PHS, J&LK, MLH). Wisconsin's Red-throateds were all from the Lake Michigan shoreline, with a peak of 31 in *Douglas* 26 May (DT). Pacific Loons were found in *Berrien*, MI 13 Apr (TB), *Manitowoc*, WI 16 Apr (DT), *St. Louis*, MN 6 May (J&LK), and *Bayfield*, WI 29 May (NA, RB, DV, SH). Whitefish Point's season total of 5978 Common Loons was their highest count since 1998. Minnesota reported a record-high northbound count of 686 Common Loons on 30 Apr (KJB) and **2094** Red-necked Grebes on 26 Apr (PHS), both in *St. Louis*. Two Eared Grebes in *Nobles*, MN 29 Mar (CRM, AL) were record early, while both Michigan and Wisconsin reported above-average numbers for the season. Two Western Grebes in *Douglas* 30-31 May (RJ, TK) made Wisconsin's only report, while a single Clark's Grebe was in *Chippewa*, MN 29 Apr (BJU). Illustrating the need for caution when identifying *Aechmophorus* grebes was a Western Grebe × Clark's Grebe hybrid in *St. Louis*, MN 29 May (KRE). A **Brown Pelican** was found in *Freeborn*, MN 31 May (BA, GL).

Snowy Egrets were reported in above-average numbers in both Minnesota and Wisconsin. Minnesota hosted the only Little Blue Herons, singles in *Nobles* 18 May (RMD, AN, DB) and *Rice* 29 May (JB). Michigan's first Tricolored Heron since 2007 frequented *Macomb* 23-27 May (THe, m.ob.). A very early Tricolored was found in *Manitowoc*, WI 26 Apr (DW), with a pair found there until 7 May. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron returned to *Oakland*, MI 27 Apr+, while Minnesota had one in *Ramsey* 2 May (JG). Considering Minnesota had only four previous records, single Glossy Ibis in *Kittson* 24-25 Apr (TrB), *Houston* 26-27 Apr (MP, AN, DAC, DS), and *Olmsted* 30 Apr (CK, AN, JWH) were noteworthy. Michigan's lone Glossy Ibis was one of 8 ibis found in *Bay* 20-22 Apr (ZB, RE, m.ob.)

VULTURES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Perhaps due to an increase in coordinated hawkwatches, the uptick in Black Vulture reports in Michigan continued. This spring saw singles in *Saginaw* 25-26 Apr (SK, m.ob.), *Emmet* 1, 8, & 14 May (SB), *Berrien* 20 May (BC), and *Keweenaw* 27-28 May (CB). The only Mississippi Kite was in *Grant*, WI 1 May (LM). No Swainson's Hawks were reported from Wisconsin, while Michigan hosted 8 birds in three counties. Michigan had no Yellow Rail reports, while Wisconsin had only one in *Walworth* 21 Apr (EH, KW); King Rails eluded detection.

The Region experienced another good year for shorebird migration, with many species present in above-average numbers. Without doubt, the rarest were records of **Wilson's Plover** from all three states. Michigan had one in

SA White-faced Ibis reports have been increasing in recent years, but this year they arrived in record numbers. No spring in Minnesota has ever tallied claims from more than nine counties, so it was truly remarkable to receive reports from at least **29** counties this season. While not all were supported with evidence to rule out Glossy Ibis (or hybrids), the vast majority were supported by photographs and/or details. All reports were s. and w. of a line from *Winona* to *Meeker* to *Lake of the Woods*, and several counties recorded the species at multiple locations. The maximum count was **30** in *Swift* 1 May (DO), and there were first county records for *Freeborn* 20 Apr (HHD), *Kittson* (up to 7 birds) 24 Apr–1 May (TrB), *Lake of the Woods* 26 Apr (KC), *McLeod* 4 May (MO), *Pennington* 3-4 May (PJ, JMJ), and *Stevens* 27 Apr (DLP).

In Wisconsin, the movement invasion began in mid-Apr, peaked in late Apr, and ibis lingered into late May. Birders tallied 16 different birds in 10 counties, most in the s. portion of the state. All were singles except for 7 in *Winnebago* 21 Apr (DT). Michigan birders reported up to 15 birds from three counties, though many were not accompanied by sufficient details to rule out hybrids. A presumed Glossy Ibis × White-faced Ibis hybrid was found in the company of 3 White-faced Ibis in *Monroe* 24-27 Apr (JRo, m.ob.).

Delta 26 May (CV). Interestingly, the next day one arrived in *St. Louis*, MN (KJB) and was presumably the same individual that was later noted in Wisconsin Point, WI 28 May (J&LK). Minnesota had a Piping Plover in *Sherburne* 20 May (PLJ), while 13 plovers in five Wisconsin counties were more than typical. Wisconsin hosted 25 Black-necked Stilts in seven counties; while still a novel breeder elsewhere in the Region, it is now commonplace at Wisconsin's Horicon N.W.R. Minnesota had single stilts in *Rice* 10 May (DB, JWH, HHD) and *Big Stone* 3-4 (BJU, DLP) & 22 May (AS), while Michigan had 2 in *Saginaw* 31 May+ (DP, m.ob.). Avocets, Willets, Whimbrels, and godwits were detected in above-average numbers. Noteworthy in Minnesota were Whimbrels in eight counties, with a record-high count away from Lake Superior of 44 in *Big Stone* 24 May (JWH, AN). Wisconsin reported 200+ Whimbrels, with a peak of 75 in *Kewaunee* 18 May (AS). Michigan's only Hudsonian Godwit was in *Delta* 16 May (JK). Single Red Knots were found at three Wisconsin locations in May, and 5 were in *St. Louis*, MN 23 May (TK), while Michigan birders spotted 11 knots in five counties. A Western Sandpiper in *Big Stone,* MN 4 May (DFN, PEJ, DLP) was noteworthy. Rare for Michigan were a Baird's Sandpiper in *Berrien* 26 Apr (MH) and 2 Purple Sandpipers that lingered through 7 May in *Ottawa* (JP, TS). Record early in Wisconsin was a female Ruff in *Dodge* 31 Mar–3 Apr (MW).

GULLS THROUGH NIGHTJARS

Wisconsin had a single Laughing Gull in *Sheboygan* 30 May (RR), while Michigan had birds in *Berrien* 18 May (JW, JR, m.ob.), *Ottawa* 24-25 May (MOv, m.ob.), and *Allegan* 26 May (RBr). Little Gulls visited all three states, and Bonaparte's Gulls peaked at 1811 in *St. Louis*, MN 7 May (PHS, J&LK). Minnesota had late Thayer's Gulls 4 (KJB) & 27 May (J&LK), as well as an Iceland Gull that lingered until 16 May (KRE), all in *St. Louis*; a record late southerly record for Glaucous Gull in *Renville* 4 May (D&BM); and a record-high count of 10 Great Black-backed Gulls in *St. Louis* 31 Mar (KJB). Michigan's third **Slaty-backed Gull** loafed in *Marquette* 15 Mar–8 Apr (BO, m.ob.). Notable high tern counts in Minnesota were 430 Caspian Terns in *Hennepin* 15 May (CMB) and 1700 Common Terns in *St. Louis* 22 May (KJB), while Wisconsin had an impressive 3500 Common Terns in *Douglas* 21 May (DT). Record early for Minnesota was a Forster's Tern in *Rice* 15 Mar (TFB), and Michigan had its first Least Tern since 2006 in *Berrien* 30 May (LS). The only Parasitic Jaegers were singles in *Douglas* 23 & 24 May (DJ, TK, DT).

Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to spread across Minnesota, with reports from 53 counties, up from last spring's 48 counties; collared-doves lingered from winter in *Berrien*, and another 2 were found in *Ottawa* 3 Apr+ (p.a., JKa, m.ob.). White-winged Doves were in *Racine*, WI 20 Apr (JM), *Douglas*, WI 21 May (DT), and *Houghton*, MI 31 May+ (AR). During an unsuccessful search for Long-eared Owls, a roost of Short-eared Owls containing a **Barn Owl** was discovered in *La Crosse*, WI 28 Mar–1 Apr (CW); a dead Barn Owl was discovered in *Anoka*, MN 5 May (TRi). Good numbers of Northern Hawk Owls and Great Gray Owls lingered in Minnesota, compared to only a few of each in both Wisconsin and Michigan. Following the winter's irruption, Boreal Owls lingered into spring in all three states, with several reports of emaciated birds; noteworthy in Michigan were Lower Peninsula records from *Kalkaska* 23-27 Mar (JWo) and *St. Clair* 3 Apr (DM). Chuck-will's-widows returned to *Jackson*, WI 4 May (JO), *Jefferson/Walworth*, WI (CBr), and *Jackson*, MI 3 May (DH, m.ob.).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH WARBLERS

The only American Three-toed Woodpecker was in *Lake of the Woods*, MN in early Mar (MHK). Michigan's first **Red-shafted Flicker** was found in *Marquette* 4 May (SHa). Gyrfalcons hunted in *St. Clair*, MI 16 Mar (TH) and *Dakota*, MN 14 Apr (KR, JC). A seasonal record 5 Say's Phoebes were found in Minnesota, while *Ozaukee*, WI hosted a Western Kingbird 24-25 May (SM, B&KK) and a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 24 May (HR). Michigan's only Western Kingbird was in *Iosco* 17 May. Away from Minnesota, Loggerhead Shrikes were found at three Wisconsin sites after 20 May, while Michigan hosted singles in *Emmet* 11-16 May (SB, DL) and *Delta* 13 May (CV). Out of range were Bell's Vireos in *Chisago*, MN 26 May+ (BW) and *Douglas*, WI 27 May (RJ). A Gray Jay in *Lake* 11 Mar (*fide* GB) was an astonishing find along a highway in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Elsewhere in Michigan, Black-billed Magpies visited feeders in *Alger* 16 Apr (D&PW) and *Chippewa* (TR, m.ob.), while Fish Crows continued to dine at the landfill in *Berrien*.

Mountain Bluebirds were found in *Trempealeau*, WI 13-18 Apr (DJ, SP) and Minnesota's *Rice* 30 Apr–2 May (TFB) and *Lake* 6 May (JWL). Townsend's Solitaires were present in record numbers in Michigan, with at least 6 birds in as many counties; solitaires were scarce in Wisconsin. New record totals were set for all the migrant thrushes in Minnesota: 43 Veeries and 135 Swainson's Thrushes in *St. Louis* 19 May (PHS, J&LK, MLH), 25 Gray-cheeked Thrushes in *Polk* 19 May (VL, SAS), 357 Hermit Thrushes in *Lyon* 17 Apr (RJS), and 14 Wood Thrushes in *Aitkin* 29 May (TK). Varied Thrushes lingered in all three states. A Chestnut-collared Longspur was an unusual find in *Blue Earth* 5 May (JPr). Smith's Longspurs were found in six Minnesota counties, while Michigan had up to 3 in *Berrien* 23 Apr–6 May (RJo, m.ob.).

Worm-eating Warblers are casual in Minnesota, so singles in *Anoka* 4 May (CF) and *Rice* 16 May (TFB) were noteworthy; Wisconsin had 7 Worm-eatings in five counties. High warbler counts from *St. Louis*, MN included 11 Mourning Warblers on both 21 (KJB) & 30 May (EB), 244 American Redstarts 30 May (KJB), 92 Cape May Warblers and 72 Magnolia Warblers 19 May (PHS, J&LK, MLH), 55 Yellow Warblers 30 May (PHS), and 452 Palm Warblers 21 May (KJB). Tying the record early arrival date set in 1898 was a Yellow Warbler in Wisconsin's *Milwaukee* 16 Apr (JA). The only Audubon's Warbler was in *Iowa*, WI 1 May (AH). Michigan's eighth **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was found in *Schoolcraft* 29 Apr (LD). Minnesota had Yellow-throated Warblers in *Carver* 5-18 May and *Winona* 10 May+, while one in *Columbia* 16 May (ML) was away from Wisconsin's stronghold in *Grant*.

TOWHEES THROUGH WEAVER FINCHES

A Spotted Towhee lingered in *Rice*, MN through 19 Apr (JLa), while one was found in *Lac Qui Parle* 7 May (BJU), and 2 were in *Pipestone* 9 May (CRM). A Spotted Towhee lingered through 16 Mar in *Chippewa* (AB), while another was found in *Brown* 3-4 May (SBe), both Wisconsin; Michigan had Spotteds in *Ottawa* 1 May (KW) and *Keweenaw* 20-21 May (CB). Single **Brewer's Sparrows** were found in *Martin*, MN 15 May (EB-K, AXH) and *Delta*, MI 17 May (J&RR, SH). The only Lark Bunting was in *Nobles*, MN 18 May (RMD, AN, DB, m.ob.). Nelson's Sparrows were found in good numbers in Wisconsin, with 7 birds in four southerly counties. Minnesota had 6 Nelson's Sparrows in *Marshall* 23 May (PEB) and one found dead in *Dodge* 31 May (WM), while at least one was in *Mason* 19 May (DD). An impressive 1100 White-throated Sparrows were at Duluth, *St. Louis*, MN 8 May (KJB). Harris's Sparrows were more numerous than usual in Minnesota, with reports from 74 of 87 counties. Michigan had at least four different Harris's Sparrows in three counties. Wisconsin's first overwintering Summer Tanager was last seen on 20 Mar in *Ozaukee* (E&JB). Single Western Tanagers in six Wisconsin counties 2-12 May made an unprecedented total; Minnesota had 5 in as many counties. The only Black-headed Grosbeak was in *St. Louis*, MN 25-26 May (SW). A male Blue Grosbeak returned to *Cass*, MI 16 May+ (JW), while Wisconsin had a male in *Sauk* 28 May (DT). In addition to anticipated reports from sw. Minnesota, Blue Grosbeaks were found in *Mower* 25 May (JWe, JEM) and *Itasca* 31 May

(SC, EEO). An amazing 8 Lazuli Buntings were found in seven Minnesota counties, while Wisconsin had one at a feeder in *Buffalo* 19 May (MO'C). Male Painted Buntings were found in *Aitkin*, MN 9-10 May (C&CP, BU, AN) and *Keweenaw*, MI 20-23 May (AE). A male **Bullock's Oriole** in *Hennepin* 14 May (DJo) made Minnesota's second record.

Pine Grosbeaks disappeared by the end of Mar, so 2 at Whitefish Point, *Chippewa*, MI 23 Apr (ph. TK) were quite late. Crossbills, especially Reds, were widely distributed. The winter-like conditions were favorable for late lingering Common Redpolls, highlighted by a record-late bird for s. Minnesota in *Chisago* 17 May (JS). Hoary Redpolls also lingered in above-average numbers, with very late records from each state: 28 Apr in *Houghton*, MI (GLe); 1 May in *Bayfield*, WI (RB); and 14 May in *Polk*, MN (SA). Minnesota had a Eurasian Tree Sparrow in *Hennepin* 26 May (ABL), while Wisconsin had singles in *Racine* 8-11 May (JCo) and *Iron* 22 May (JBa). Eurasian Tree Sparrows made an impressive appearance in Michigan, with 4 in *Marquette* 29 Apr–6 May (JDP, m.ob.), 2 in *Chippewa* 19-22 May (TR, m.ob.), and one in *Keweenaw* 24 May (CB).

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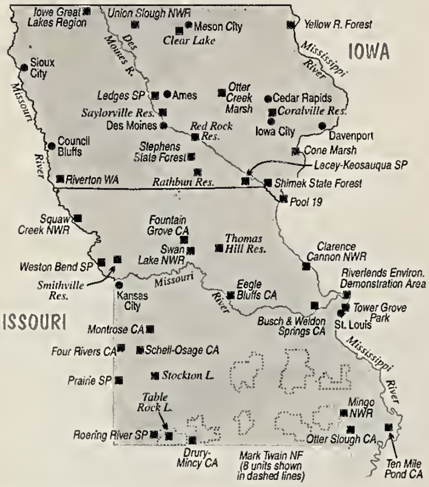
Iowa & Missouri


Iowa Great Lakes Region
Union Slough NWR
Mason City
Clear Lake
Yellow R. Forest
IOWA
Mississippi River
Des Moines R.
Sioux City
Missouri River
Ledges SP
Ames
Otter Creek Marsh
Cedar Rapids
Coralville Res.
Saylorville Res.
Des Moines
Red Rock Res.
Iowa City
Davenport
Council Bluffs
Stephens State Forest
Cone Marsh
Lacey-Keosauqua SP
Riverton WA
Rathbun Res.
Shimek State Forest
Pool 19
Squaw Creek NWR
Fountain Grove CA
Swan Lake NWR
Thomas Hill Res.
Clarence Cannon NWR
Weston Bend SP
Smithville Res.
Missouri River
Riverlands Environ. Demonstration Area
Kansas City
Eagle Bluffs CA
Tower Grove Park
MISSOURI
Busch & Weldon Springs CA
St. Louis
Montrose CA
Four Rivers CA
Schell-Osage CA
Mississippi River
Prairie SP
Stockton L.
Table Rock L.
Mingo NWR
Roaring River SP
Otter Slough CA
Drury-Mincy CA
Mark Twain NF (8 units shown in dashed lines)
Ten Mile Pond CA

Joshua P. Uffman
Ryan N. Douglas

In sharp contrast to the spring of 2012, which suffered from above-normal temperatures and drought, this spring was cool and wet. March temperatures averaged 6-7° F below normal in both states, and a foot of snow blanketed Iowa 8-11 March and Missouri in late March. April 2013 was the wettest April in 141 years of record keeping in Iowa. A strong rainstorm 17-18 April left the upper Mississippi River watershed of Missouri with its worst early spring flooding since 1973. The cooler temperatures of March lingered, with temperatures averaging 5° below normal through Iowa and northern Missouri and 1-2° below normal in southern Missouri. Like April, May 2013 was the wettest May on record in Iowa, marking the first time in history with two consecutive months of record precipitation. A snowstorm hit northwestern Iowa 1-3 May, leaving a foot of snow in some spots, while only rain fell in the southeastern part of the state. The same system brought record-low temperatures and up to 18 cm (7 inches) of snow in western Missouri 3 May, the largest May snowfall in Missouri since 2 May 1929. A late ice-out in the northern Midwest caused several species of migratory waterfowl to stall in Iowa and linger until mid-May or late May. Another storm late in May caused major flooding.

This spring was packed with rarities in each state, including Garganey, Neotropic Cormorant, White Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Purple Gallinule, Ruff, Say's Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Rock Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Golden-cheeked Warbler, Lazuli Bunting, Painted Bunting, and Lesser Goldfinch. Finally, winter finches from the 2012-2013 invasion, including two Hoary Redpolls, were recorded into the spring season.

Abbreviations: Ada (Ada Hayden Park, *Story*, IA); C.B.C.A. (Columbia Bottom C.A., *St. Louis*, MO); Dunbar (Dunbar Slough, *Greene*, IA); E.B.C.A. (Eagle Bluffs C.A., *Boone*, MO); Hawkeye (Hawkeye W.A., *Johnson*, IA); Rapp (Rapp Park, *Page*, IA), Red Rock (Red Rock Reservoir, *Marion*, IA); Riverlands (Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, *St. Charles*, MO); Riverton (Riverton Wildlife Area, *Fremont*, IA); Smithville (Smithville Lake, *Clay*, MO); Squaw (Squaw Creek N.W.R., *Holt*, MO); Saylorville (Saylorville Reservoir, *Polk*, IA).

WATERFOWL THROUGH GROUSE

Up to 5 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks stopped over at Mingo N.W.R., *Stoddard*, MO 14-20 May (Peter Rae, Brad Pendley, *fide* CBa), and 3 **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks** were there 30 Apr (SDi). Late ice-out conditions in Iowa and heavy snow in n. Missouri likely contributed to unusually high counts of geese in both states. In mid-Mar, the Missouri River corridor in Iowa held 30,000 Greater White-fronteds in *Woodbury* (GLV), 7000 in *Polk* (SJD), and another 6000 in *Hamilton* (SJD). Peak Snow Goose counts included 150,000 at Riverton (KDy) and another 100,000 in *Woodbury* (GLV), both Iowa, and 500,000 at *Livingston*, MO. In e. Missouri, several days after a large snowstorm had blanketed most of n. and cen. Missouri, 70,000 Snows were found across three sites in *St. Charles* 2 Mar (CM, JM, BR). Several thousand Greater White-fronteds were also seen mixed in with the Snow Goose flocks. In Iowa, Ross's Goose migration appeared to peak later than the other white geese, with 85 at Saylorville 25 Mar (SJD), 150 in *Boone* 7 Apr (TMH), and 71 at Little Wall Lake, *Hamilton* 13 Apr (SJD). The highest Trumpeter Swan counts included 27 at Ada 3 Mar (SJD), 80 at Swan Lake N.W.R., *Chariton*, MO 4 Mar (SK), and 31 still at Squaw 1 Apr (JBo). Breeding was confirmed in Iowa at Anderson Lake, *Hamilton* 26 Apr (SJD) and Dunbar 13 May (SJD). Up to 200 Tundra Swans were at Pool 9 along the Mississippi River, *Allamakee*, IA 21-22 Mar (Billy Reiter-Marolf, SJD), a usual stopover point for this species.

Many dabbling ducks remained in each state into late May, including 110 Gadwalls and an estimated 1700 Blue-winged Teal at Squaw 23 May (MR). Beginning 21 Mar, Cinnamon Teal arrived at three s. Iowa and three w. Missouri sites, with 2 drakes at Squaw 5 May (SDi) and one still lingering there 27 May (DW). Northern Pintails arrived on schedule in Iowa, with a high of 12,000 at Riverton 14 Mar (KDy). However, they too were late to leave, with 225 still at Squaw 23 May (MR). Missouri's second record of **Garganey**, an ad. male, was made by ten-year-old Amara Weiss in *Chariton* 19-21 Apr (ph., †AS, †PMc, Frankie Cuculich, m.ob.). An estimated 3600 Green-winged Teal were at Winfield, *Lincoln*, MO 2 Mar (JM, CM). Clear Lake, *Cerro Gordo*, IA held the following peak counts 6 Apr: 2260 Canvasbacks, 1817 Redheads, 1303 Ring-necked Ducks, and 4550 Lesser Scaup (PH). There was a good showing of Greater Scaup in nw. Missouri, with up to 95 in *Nodaway* 13-18 Mar (DE). Elsewhere, no more than 8 were seen in Missouri, and up to 12 were noted in cen. and e. Iowa. An ad. male Surf Scoter was at Riverlands 11-13 May (ph. JM, CM, Dylan Sheets), while an imm. in *Greene* 23 May constituted a record-late departure date for Missouri (ph., †GSw). Two White-winged Scoters remained at Riverlands through 19 Mar (David Marjamaa, Mary Anne Marjamaa, m.ob.), and an imm. male was in *Webster*, IA 24 Mar (ph. SJD). Three Long-tailed Duck reports came from Iowa beginning with one in *Scott* 2 Mar (JF) and ending with a stunning ad. male in *Black Hawk* 4 May (m.ob.). Common Merganser numbers at Red Rock grew from 1200 to 4520 from 13-16 Mar (SJD, AB).

White Ibis and Whimbrel are both rare in Iowa and Missouri, much less in the same field of view. This unusual pair was near Winfield, Lincoln County, Missouri 20 May 2013. *Photograph by Allen Smith.*

In Iowa, 15 Gray Partridge in *Cerro Gordo* 7 Mar was the highest count (CJF), and only 1-2 were located at two other cen. sites. Despite the predicted low numbers of Ring-necked Pheasant in Iowa, this year's reports indicate an increase compared to previous years. Similarly, more Greater Prairie-Chickens were noted in Missouri, possibly a result of ongoing reintroduction efforts, with up to 7 observed at five sw. Missouri prairies 20 Mar–18 May and a high of 10 at Dunn Ranch, *Harrison* 29 Apr (SK). Unfortunately, 8 at the Kellerton lek, *Ringgold* 28 Mar (DTh) made the only Iowa report.

LOONS THROUGH CRANES

A Red-throated Loon at Coralville Reservoir, *Johnson*, IA 4 May (JF) provided one of few spring records in the Region. The heavy snow that impacted nw. Iowa in early May resulted in some of Iowa's highest spring Horned Grebe counts ever, with 48-86 at three cen. sites 2-3 May (SJD, JG). Red-necked Grebes were only in Iowa: 10 singles, all at separate spots 15 Apr–18 May, and 2 at George Wyth S.P., *Black Hawk* 4 May (m.ob.). Surprisingly, no evidence of breeding was observed; nesting is often noted in the extreme n.-cen. and nw. portion of Iowa. The highest Eared Grebe counts included 17 at Ada 16 Apr (SJD) and 16 stalled by the same weather system that downed the Horned Grebes 2 May at Little Wall Lake, *Hamilton*, IA (SJD). Missouri Western Grebes included one at Riverlands 13 Mar–13 Apr (CM, JM, MT, PL, m.ob.) and 2-3 at Smithville 13 & 23 May (ph. DW). In Iowa, 2 Western Grebes were at Gateway Park, *Iowa* 29 Apr and 1 May (CRE, RIA, PHA, JLF), singles were at two other sw. Iowa sites, and 2 were at South Twin Lake, *Calhoun* 15 May (SJD).

A **Neotropic Cormorant** at Smithville set a new early arrival record for Missouri 10 Apr (ph. DW), and a subad. was at Saylorville 13 May (†SJD). Up to 2 Anhingas were at Mingo N.W.R., *Stoddard*, MO 17 & 30 Apr (ph. Chad Doolen, ph. SDi). The first American Bitterns to arrive in each state were record early by at least fourteen days for each state; Iowa's arrived in *Story* 7 Mar (ph., DJS) and Missouri's in *Dunklin* 13 Mar (ph. TJo). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was record early by a week in *Greene*, MO 10 Mar (ph., †CBu). An ad. **White Ibis** in the flooded Mississippi River bottoms, *Lincoln* 20 May (ph., †AS) added to the few n. Missouri spring records, while a **Glossy Ibis** at Hawkeye 3-4 May added to the limited Iowa records (JF, BSc, †CRE, m.ob.). Sixteen White-faced Ibis arrived at Squaw 7 Apr (JBo), and 41 there 4 May made the highest count in the Region (DE, TE, PK). The species was reported from 19 Iowa counties, beginning 10 Apr at Rapp (KDy). Peak counts of 16-24 came from one sw. and two n.-cen. Missouri sites 24 Apr–2 May; in Iowa, a count of 26 unidentified *Plegadis* came from *Marshall* 25 Apr (Donald Maze, *fide* JB).

The most unexpected Mississippi Kite was one at Shenandoah, *Page*, IA 14 May (KDy); 21 in *Dunklin*, MO 24 May was the highest count (TJo). Swainson's Hawks had a remarkable flight through the Region this spring. In Missouri, the first were spotted in *Greene* 29-30 Mar (GSa, GSw), then counts of 30-50 were made at Squaw 7-21 Apr (JBo, JK, m.ob.), with 15 still there 5 May (DE, TE, m.ob.), and a high of 65 in *Buchanan* 20 Apr (JBo, JK). In Iowa, they were reported in 26 counties 6 Apr–9 May,

Missouri's ninth Vermilion Flycatcher, and only the second in the past 41 years, was a one-day wonder near Pleasant Hill, Cass County 2 May 2013. *Photograph by Teresa Crews.*

and migration appeared to peak in late Apr, with a high of 48 in *Mills* (KDy). The easternmost reports included 2 in *Boone*, MO 4-11 May (GC, RD, NM) and Iowa individuals in *Washington* 16 Apr (BSc) and *Linn* 24 Apr (BSc). Red Rock held 25 Rough-legged Hawks 3 Mar, the most seen in Iowa since 2009 (SJD). Golden Eagles were reported at four Iowa and three Missouri sites, beginning with an imm. at E.B.C.A. 10-16 Mar (Kyle McCommis, ph., Vic Bogosian, m.ob.) and ending 20 Apr, with single imms. in *Boone*, MO (RD) and at Hawkeye (JLF).

One of the Region's many surprises this season was a **Purple Gallinule** in a sw. Missouri subdivision pond, *Greene* 14 Apr (ph., †Mark Lohmeyer). An estimated 5500 American Coots at Squaw 23 May was an unusually high count for such a late date (MR). Peak Sandhill Crane counts came in mid-Mar from Iowa, with 19 at Otter Creek Marsh, *Tama* (DCH) and 23 in *Benton* (DCH). Nesting reports were fewer in Iowa this season, with evidence from Hamlin Garland W.A., *Mitchell* 18 May (PH) and 2 ads. noted tending a young colt at Cardinal Marsh, *Winneshiek* 19 May (LR). In Missouri, potential breeding birds included 2 at E.B.C.A. starting 9 Mar (Lottie Bushmann, PMc, RD, m.ob.) and up to 5 at Squaw beginning 23 Mar (JBo, DE, PL, m.ob.).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

An American Golden-Plover at Riverlands 10 Mar was the first (JU), while the most was an estimated 7000 staging in *Dunklin*, MO 5 Apr (TJo). Peak Semipalmated Plover counts included 58 in *Buchanan*, MO 27 Apr (JK), 175 at Squaw 1 May (DW), and a push of 70 almost two weeks later at E.B.C.A. 14 May (GC). Squaw had up to 5 Piping Plovers 24 Apr–5 May (ph. KB, SDi, m.ob.). Iowa observers found them at Saylorville 3-7 May (SJD, AB, m.ob.), including an individual that had been banded as a chick in North Dakota in 2012, and another in *Webster* 11 May (SJD). The first 4 Black-necked Stilts in *Dunklin* 12 Mar were the earliest ever for Missouri (ph., †TJo); the count there grew to an impressive 352 by 25 May (TJo). One to 2 made it to three se. Iowa sites 16 Apr–1 May, while an individual at Dunbar 28 Apr was the most northwesterly (ph. SJD). In Iowa, an American Avocet in *Louisa* 8 Apr tied the third-earliest record (JF), and peak counts came 9 May, with 44 at Rapp (KDy) and 37 West Lake, *Clarke* (SJD, JJD). In Missouri, 30 were at Squaw 4-11 May (DE, MT, m.ob.); 28 were late there 23 May (MR). A Spotted Sandpiper 11 Apr in *Polk* constituted the third-earliest Iowa record (JB). Peak Willet counts of 20-33 occurred 23 Apr–5 May, but the highest count was up to 98 at E.B.C.A. 9 May (EW, PMc, NM). Whimbrel sightings included singles at the Dairy Ponds, *Woodbury*, IA 29 Apr (ph. POR) and Bean L., *Buchanan*, MO 15 May (MR, JBo, m.ob.), followed by a peak 20-21 May, when singles were at two cen. Missouri sites, and groups of 3 and 13 were found at separate *Lincoln*, MO locales (ph., AS, PK). Hudsonian Godwits first arrived at Squaw 11 Apr in Missouri (DW) and in Iowa at Rapp 12 Apr (KDy). It appears two separate peaks occurred in the Region: the first came 14-24 Apr, with 131 in *Fremont*, IA (KDy), 112 at Dunbar (SJD), 68 in *Buchanan*, MO (JK, JBo), and 22-25 at two other Missouri sites. A second pulse of migrants then passed 11-17 May, with counts of 34-85 reported in two w. Iowa and two nw. Missouri counties. Five Marbled Godwits in *Mills* 12 Apr were the first in Iowa (KDy), while 28 at the Dairy Ponds, *Woodbury*, IA 24 Apr was the Region's most this spring (GLV). In nw. Missouri, up to 8 were at Squaw 11 Apr–5 May, but the most surprising was a late flock of 17 there 23 May (MR). A staging group of 700 Dunlins in *Dunklin*, MO was early for such a high count 5 Apr (TJo). Western Sandpipers reports were above average, with 1-2 across five n. Missouri sites beginning 5 Apr (PMc, Brad Jacobs). Six Buff-breasted Sandpipers 17 May in *Lincoln* and a single there 21 May added to just a handful of spring migration records (fewer than five) of this species in e. Missouri (CM, ph., JM). Two **Ruffs** were discovered at separate nw. Missouri sites 12 May: a female at Squaw (ph. DW, KD) and a molting male at Bean Lake, *Buchanan* (ph. JK, Edward Raynor, ph. KB). Staging Long-billed Dowitchers in *Dunklin* totaled 1400 on 19 Mar (TJo). The last Wilson's Snipe included a single at Squaw 4 May (DE, TE, PK) and 4 in *Marshall*, IA 3 May (DCH). Wilson's Phalaropes came through the Region in impressive numbers 20 Apr–15 May, with peak counts of 300-600 at two nw. Missouri sites, 100-300 at two cen. Missouri and two nw. Iowa sites, and many other locations reporting up to 100. In Missouri, the first Red-necked Phalarope at Squaw was the earliest ever 21 Apr (MR, ph. SA, CH), while 52 there 23 May was the second highest single day total for the species (MR).

Bonaparte's Gulls peaked 4-5 May with 368 at Saylorville (AB), 182 in *Hamilton*, IA (SJD), and 140 at Smithville (JU, MP). Single ad. Laughing Gulls were at Riverlands 18 May (ph. JM, CM) and Smithville 30 May (ph. DW). Franklin's Gulls peaked in the Region 5 May, with 300 at Squaw (DE, TE, m.ob.) and 500 at Storm Lake, *Buena Vista*, IA (DB). Lock & Dam 14 along the Mississippi River, *Scott*, IA hosted 2 ad. Thayer's Gulls, a second-cycle Iceland Gull, and 3 Lesser Black-backed Gulls 7 Mar (JF). Single Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at four other Iowa sites 23 Mar–14 Apr, and Missouri's latest ever was at Lake Contrary, *Buchanan* 27 & 30 Apr (ph. JK, Jake Phillips). First-cycle Glaucous Gulls were at Saylorville 6 Apr (ph., SJD) and Riverlands 9-19 Mar (ph. Dylan Sheets, ph. Garrett Sheets, m.ob.). Four Black Terns beat the earliest Missouri arrival date by two weeks at Squaw 15 Apr (DW); peak counts of 200-350 were observed at two nw. Missouri sites and one Iowa site 12-23 May. Caspian Terns peaked at 166 at Saylorville 13 May (SJD, JG), and the highest Forster's Tern count was 62 at Clear Lake, *Cerro Gordo*, IA 10 May (RGo). Common Terns mostly skipped Missouri to get to Iowa, where they were found in ten counties and peak counts consisted of an impressive 100 at Pleasant Creek Recreation Area, *Linn* 10 May (JF) and another 84 at Saylorville 13 May (SJD).

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

White-winged Doves are now annual rare visitors to the Region. This spring, one returned to a previous nesting location in Shenandoah, *Page*, IA 10 May (KDy), and others were in *Dallas*, IA 24 May (JB) and *Lincoln*, MO 28 Apr (ph. Jerry Hemmersmeyer). Yellow-billed Cuckoos had already arrived at eight s. Missouri sites by 30 Apr, with the earliest ever for Missouri in *Dunklin* 16 Apr (ph. †TJo). Black-billed Cuckoos were widely noted this spring, starting with one in *Dunklin* 28 Apr (ph. TJo), then singles at 10 Missouri and six Iowa locales. Five

Iowa's latest ever by a week, this Northern Shrike was photographed 13 April 2013 in Wright County. *Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore.*

Greater Roadrunners in *Barry*, MO 9 May, including 3 counter-singing males, was the largest count reported (MR, JBo, CH), and a single in *Crawford* 18 May was ne. of the species' usual sw. Missouri range (Suzy Deese). Iowa reported 1-2 Long-eared Owls at four sites through 3 Apr, including a probable nester at Lake Manawa, *Pottawattamie* 24 Mar (Karen Marx), and 1-2 Northern Saw-whet Owls at five s. locales 2-23 Mar. A Prairie Falcon near Riverlands 10 Mar added to the few e. Missouri records (ph. JU); the season's only other report was from *Story*, IA 15 Mar (SJD).

An Olive-sided Flycatcher in *Christian* 28 Apr furnished the second-earliest Missouri record (Emily Samuel, GSa), while 2 Eastern Wood-Pewees in *Page* 28 Apr were Iowa's third earliest ever (KDy). Alder Flycatchers at separate *Boone* sites set the earliest and second-earliest arrival records for Missouri 2 & 3 May (PMc). Sixty Least Flycatchers was an unusually high number for *Kossuth*, IA 17 May (MCK). **Say's Phoebe** records continue to accumulate in the Region. This spring, 2 were in Iowa, one at Sweet Marsh, *Bremer* 4 May (KVS, TMH, RIA, PHA, †JB, ph., †JG, m.ob.) and another at Ada 9 May (†WO), while Missouri's thirteenth was at Squaw 21 Apr (ph. Dala Grissom, Christine Kline, Charlotte Ross). An ad. male **Vermilion Flycatcher** in *Cass* 2 May was Missouri's ninth (ph., †Teresa Crews). The first Great Crested Flycatcher 11 Apr in *Jasper* appears to make the second-earliest Missouri record (ph. CC, Brian Davis). Western Kingbirds are now working to fill in the gaps across Iowa; this spring, seven reports were w. of a line from *Hancock* to *Polk*, including a migrating group of 3 in Council Bluffs, *Pottawattamie* 11 May (JJD). An ad. female Scissor-tailed Flycatcher made it to Geode S.P., *Henry*, IA 23 May (JWR). Loggerhead Shrikes may have been a bit more numerous this spring compared to the past few. In Missouri, singles were at six sites in the sw. and three in the e., including a high of 7 was in *Dunklin* 19 Mar (TJo). Iowa birders found them in twelve counties, with the northernmost in *Benton* 3 Mar (PET) and *Franklin* 7 Apr (SJD). The southernmost Northern Shrike of the four Missouri reports was one at E.B.C.A. 3 Mar (Thomas Luhring, GC). In Iowa, singles visited nine counties, including one in *Wright* 13 Apr that was record late by a week (SJD).

A Blue-headed Vireo in *St. Louis City* tied Missouri's third-earliest arrival record 9 Apr (ph. Chrissy McClarren). Red-eyed Vireos peaked at an astonishing 172 in Mark Twain N.F., *Barry* 9 May (JBo, CH, MR). Fish Crows were confirmed nesting at Roaring River S.P., *Barry* 8-17 May (†JC, AK, Becky Wylie). A Northern Rough-winged Swallow in *Johnson* 3 Apr (BSc) constitutes the second-earliest Iowa record. Red-breasted Nuthatches were recorded into May, with Missouri's latest in *Greene* 14 May (Lisa Berger) and Iowa's in *Dickinson* 21 May (Ed Thelen). A **Rock Wren** was in rural *Boone*, IA 10-18 May (Joe Monahan, †DCH, ph., †SJD, †JG). The first Iowa Marsh Wren in *Polk* 13 Apr (MHB) tied the second-earliest record. This season's Bewick's Wren reports were encouraging: in Missouri; a single 30 Mar in *Cole* was the first (CBa), followed by counts of 1-2 in *Washington*, *Miller*, and three other *Cole* sites (CBa), with breeding pairs confirmed in *Franklin* and *Cole*; in Iowa, 2 were at a *Decatur* farmstead 1 May (†POR).

A **Mountain Bluebird** was at Maffitt Reservoir, *Polk/Warren*, IA 9-10 Mar (ph., †JG, †JB, ph., †AB). Two Townsend's Solitaires were at their usual *O'Brien*, IA location through 2 Mar (LAS). A Veery in *Cerro Gordo* tied Iowa's third-earliest record 1 May (RGo). The first 2 Swainson's Thrushes at Roaring River S.P., *Barry* tied the earliest Missouri spring record 14 Apr (GSw). Peak counts included 108 in *Barry*, MO 9 May (JBo, CH, MR) and 64 nocturnal migrants over Grimes, *Polk*, IA 27 May (JB). Two Varied Thrushes visited Iowa, at Algona, *Kossuth* 3 Apr (Carole & Earl Ludwig, *fide* MCK) and at Des Moines, *Polk* 16-23 Apr (Barb Miller). **Sprague's Pipits** were found in each state: one singing from the ground in *Buchanan*, MO 21 Apr (SA, CH, MR) and one at Errington Marsh, *Polk*, IA 22 Apr (ph., †JG, m.ob.) The highest Smith's Longspur count was 70 at Pershing S.P., *Linn*, MO 19 Mar (SK), and the last was 31 at Dunbar 6 May (SJD). Snow Buntings lingered only in Iowa, with a high of 20 at Cardinal Marsh, *Winneshiek* 24 Mar (LR) and the last individual in *Winnebago* 31 Mar (ph. Andrew Furman, *fide* SJD).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A single Worm-eating Warbler made it to Stone S.P., *Woodbury*, IA 13-15 May (Tucker J. Lutter, POR). The 49 Northern Waterthrushes at Squaw 3 May (DE, TE) were slowed by one of the coldest May days on record. Missouri's second-earliest Black-and-white Warbler was in *Christian* 16 Mar (David Blevins). Up to 3 Prothonotary Warblers at Beaver Bottoms Wetland, *Dallas* 8 May (DTh) made a fine record for cen. Iowa. One to 2 Swainson's Warblers were at their s. Missouri nesting grounds beginning 2 May. A 12-km trek through Mark Twain N.F., *Barry*, MO 9 May produced a few of the season's peak warbler counts: 31 Black-and-white Warblers, 233 Tennessee Warblers, and 17 Hooded Warblers (JBo, CH, MR). In Iowa, 31 Tennessee Warblers were still in *Kossuth* 27 May (MCK). Connecticut Warblers came through in average numbers 17-28 May, with two Missouri and six Iowa reports. Hooded Warblers were found in Iowa 1-24 May at two *Lee* locales and farther nw. in *Guthrie* and *Story*. An ad. male American Redstart in *Franklin* 15 Apr (JU) furnished

This Rock Wren in Boone County, Iowa 10-18 (here 12) May was one of the many western rarities found in spring 2013 in the Iowa and Missouri region. *Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore.*

the second-earliest Missouri record, while 97 in *Winneshiek*, IA 17 May (LR) was this Region's high this season. In mid-May, Cerulean Warblers were found outside of their known breeding grounds at two separate *Boone*, MO sites and at Saylorville (JG). Black-throated Blue Warblers visited four locations in the e. part of the Region, including 2 males at Tower Grove Park, *St. Louis City*, MO 7 May (Bryan Prather, Brad Warrick, m.ob.). A Palm Warbler in *St. Louis* 21 May tied the latest Missouri spring record (DBe, CBr, JU, MP). Pine Warblers were first observed in Iowa 24-27 Apr at Fairmount Cemetery, *Scott* (Walter Zuurdeeg) and then at their usual Iowa location at the Farmington Unit, *Van Buren* through 24 May (CRE). Over 200 Yellow-rumped Warblers were at Squaw 5 May (JC, CC, Becky Wylie), and an individual in *Perry* established a new Missouri departure date 28 May (†MH). An ad. male Prairie Warbler at Thousand Hills S.P., *Adair* 11 May added to one of few n. Missouri records (ph., †PK). Undoubtedly, the most unexpected observation in the Region was a singing male **Golden-cheeked Warbler** at Creve Coeur, *St. Louis* 19-22 Apr (ph., †JU, †DBe, †PMc, m.ob.). It was found after intense storms 17-18 Apr that brought heavy rains from the sw. and presumably departed with a sharp drop in temperatures. It is a first state record for Missouri and only the fourth documented U.S. record outside of Texas.

Spotted Towhees had a good showing in the Region, with one in *Boone*, IA 3 May (ph. LGD) and four spread across four n. Missouri sites through 12 May. Chipping Sparrows numbered 300 at Saylorville 1 May (DTh) and 275 in *Polk* 4 May (BE). Clay-colored Sparrows first arrived 27 Apr in *Fremont*, IA (KDy) and were more abundant than usual across the Region through 18 May, when the last migrants were in *Howard*, IA (LR). The peak count of 19 in Iowa came at Saylorville 3 May (SJD), and then 137 were stalled by storms 4 May at Squaw (DE, TE, PK). Le Conte's Sparrows were first noted 15 Apr at Ada (WO), and the last migrants were seen at Sedan Bottoms, *Appanoose*, IA 13 May (RLC). The only Nelson's Sparrow in *Livingston* 24 May tied Missouri's latest departure record (SK). Harris's Sparrows were described as numerous this spring in Iowa, with a high of 60 at Lake Pahoja, *Lyon*, IA 16 May (SJD).

The first Orchard Oriole in *Crawford* 15 Apr (JU) made the second-earliest Missouri record. Baltimore Orioles arrived early too, with one in *Greene* 14 Apr (Jill Hays, GSa) and another in *Cape Girardeau* 17 Apr (MH), making the first and second-earliest Missouri arrival records. Two **Western Tanagers** were spotted in n. Iowa, one in Mason City, *Cerro Gordo* 9-11 May (RGo, ph., †JG) and the other in *Clay* 12 May (LAS). On 2 May, single male **Lazuli Buntings** arrived in n. Missouri in *Buchanan* (ph., Linda Williams, KB, PL, m.ob.) and *Macon* (Gale March, ph., †NM). In Iowa, one was in *O'Brien* 18 May (Bruce Morrison). A **Painted Bunting** was well n. of expected range at Shenandoah, *Page*, IA 9-10 May (†KDy). An early push of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in Missouri placed one record early in *Butler* 9 Apr (ph., †Luann Holst). A female Black-headed Grosbeak was in *Webster*, MO 12 May (ph., †AK). Blue Grosbeaks were ahead of schedule too, with Missouri's second earliest in *Washington* 12 Apr (ph. SDi). Bobolinks were late, with the first in the Region at Homestead, *Iowa*, IA 1 May (BSc). The highest count of 150 was in *Greene*, MO 7 May (AK).

Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported in six Iowa counties, and three counts of 10-18 came from Missouri 28 Apr–25 May. Multiple Rusty Blackbird reports is good news for a species that is rapidly declining; during the period 3 Mar–7 Apr, five flocks numbering 70-200 were reported as far n. as *St. Louis* in Missouri and four flocks of 81-90 in Iowa. The last report of Rusty in *St. Louis* 27 Apr (CBr) constitutes the latest Missouri spring record. An estimated 300 Brewer's Blackbirds in *Dade*, MO 9 Mar (GSw) was the most in the Region, and other high counts included 72 in *Dallas* 24 Mar (JCe) and 40 in *Boone* 31 Mar (SJD), both Iowa. Numerous finches spilled into the spring season after the historic winter 2012-2013 invasion. Purple Finches were numerous and remained late in each state, with Missouri's last in *Boone* 12 May (RD) and Iowa's second latest ever in *Polk* 27 May (DTh). In Missouri, up to15 Red Crossbills were found in *Daviess*, three different *Boone* sites, and *St. Louis*, all 6 Mar–4 May. Others in Missouri were identified to Type based on recordings, with up to 9 Type 2 birds in *Webster* 21-31 May (GSa) and one Type 2 in *Gentry* beginning 25 May (ph. Judy Phillips, *fide* Jake Phillips). They were less numerous in Iowa, with only four reports of 2-4 birds 24 Apr–30 May. Iowa recorded the Region's only White-winged Crossbills, with reports of 1-3 at four sites 13 Mar–16 Apr. Common Redpolls were reported in 18 Iowa counties, with peak counts of 67-140 across three Iowa sites 4-10 Mar. In Missouri, they stuck around across through most of Mar in the n., while one at Bonne Terre, *St. Francois* 26 Mar was the southernmost (Judy Bergmann). The last in Iowa were reported 23 Apr in *Kossuth* (MCK); one in *Boone* 21 Apr–8 May established the latest spring record ever for Missouri (ph., †William Palmer, Kay Palmer. The only **Hoary Redpolls** were found in Iowa, singles at Saylorville 10 Mar (†SJD), in *Wright* 13 Mar (†SJD), and in *Howard* 21 Mar (ph., †SJD). Pine Siskins were numerous and lingered into May in each state also. The most notable May count was 148 in *Holt*, MO 3 May (DE, TE), while one in *Cerro Gordo*, IA 28 May appears to have been the last in the Region (CJF). An ad. male **Lesser Goldfinch** in *Cass* 6 Apr was Missouri's sixth (†Ginny Culver). Not to be left out, 2 Evening Grosbeaks visited a *Clay*, MO feeding station 13-27 Apr (*fide* JU).

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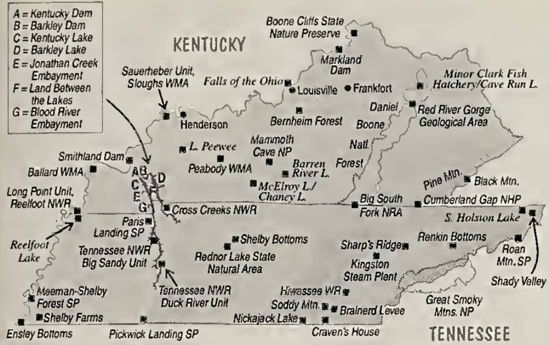

A = Kentucky Dam
B = Barkley Dam
C = Kentucky Lake
D = Barkley Lake
E = Jonathan Creek Embayment
F = Land Between the Lakes
G = Blood River Embayment
KENTUCKY
Boone Cliffs State Nature Preserve
Markland Dam
Minor Clark Fish Hatchery/Cave Run L.
Sauerheber Unit, Sloughs WMA
Falls of the Ohio
Louisville
Frankfort
Henderson
Bernheim Forest
Daniel Boone Natl. Forest
Red River Gorge Geological Area
L. Peewee
Mammoth Cave NP
Peabody WMA
Barren River L.
McElroy L./Chaney L.
Smithland Dam
Ballard WMA
Long Point Unit, Reelfoot NWR
Cross Creeks NWR
Big South Fork NRA
Pine Mtn.
Black Mtn.
Cumberland Gap NHP
S. Holston Lake
Paris Landing SP
Reelfoot Lake
Tennessee NWR Big Sandy Unit
Shelby Bottoms
Radnor Lake State Natural Area
Sharp's Ridge
Kingston Steam Plant
Renkin Bottoms
Roan Mtn. SP
Shady Valley
Meeman-Shelby Forest SP
Tennessee NWR Duck River Unit
Hiwassee WR
Soddy Mtn.
Brainerd Levee
Great Smoky Mtns. NP
Shelby Farms
Nickajack Lake
Ensley Bottoms
Pickwick Landing SP
Craven's House
TENNESSEE

Scott Somershoe
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Climatic conditions during spring 2013 were overall relatively normal. Average temperature during March was cooler than normal across the Region but about normal during April and May. Precipitation across most of the Region was near normal during the March through May period; above-normal rainfall in the upper Mississippi River valley caused some minor flooding of the lower Ohio and Mississippi Rivers during late April and May. Rarity highlights included Cinnamon Teal, Red-throated Loon, Western Grebe, Anhinga, Glossy and White-faced Ibises, Whimbrel, Red Phalarope, California Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, White-winged Dove, continuing Say's Phoebe and Northern Shrike, and two Western Tanagers in Kentucky. Tennessee hosted Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Cinnamon Teal, Red-necked Grebe, Brown Pelicans, Little Gull, White-winged Doves, Common Ground-Dove, McCown's Longspur, and Clay-colored Sparrow. Following the finch irruptions of the winter season, reports of both crossbills, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak continued into the spring.

Abbreviations: Booker T. Washington S.P. (*Hamilton*, TN); Duck River Unit (Duck River Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., *Humphreys*, TN); Ensley (Ensley Bottoms, including the EARTH Complex, in sw. *Shelby*, TN); Kentucky Dam (*Marshall/Livingston*, KY); McElroy Lake (ne. of Woodburn, s. *Warren*, KY); Morgan Pond (near Oak Grove, s. *Christian*, KY); Sauerheber (Sauerheber Unit Sloughs W.M.A., *Henderson*, KY); Snow Bunting Peninsula (near Old Hickory Dam, *Davidson*, TN).

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBIS

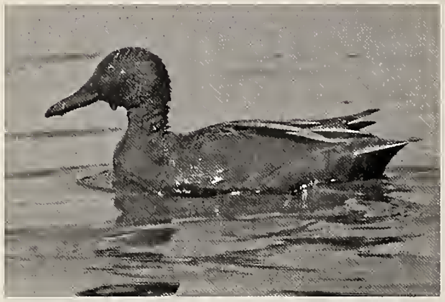
A Fulvous Whistling-Duck was found at Ensley 13 May among locally nesting Black-bellieds (M&SM, m.ob.). Tardy waterfowl included a Greater White-fronted Goose at Sauerheber 3 May (ph. CC) and a Snow Goose at Camp Ernst Lake, *Boone*, KY through 11 May (LM). Some season peak counts for waterfowl of interest included 1000+ Green-winged Teal adjacent to Obion W.M.A., *Fulton*, KY 28 Mar (BP); 600 Blue-winged Teal at Sauerheber 2 Apr (KM); 1000 Lesser Scaup adjacent to Obion W.M.A. 28 Mar (BP); 53 Red-breasted Mergansers at Percy Priest W.M.A., *Rutherford*, TN 3 Apr (SSo); and 104 Ruddy Ducks at Fate Sanders Marina, *Rutherford*, TN 29 Mar (SSo). Tardy waterfowl included an American Wigeon at McElroy Lake 13 May (BP, EH, TD); a Northern Shoveler in sw. *Logan*, KY 25 May (FL); a Redhead at McElroy Lake 31 May (BP, MYa, TD); a Lesser Scaup on McElroy Lake 22 May (BP, EH); single Common Goldeneyes at Duck River Unit through 24 May (SZ) and at Ballard W.M.A., *Ballard*, KY 29 May (GBu); a female Common Merganser at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*, KY through 5 May (BW et al.); 7 Red-breasted Mergansers on Kentucky Lake above the dam 18 May (BP, EH); and 3 Ruddy Ducks on McElroy Lake 18-22 May (m.ob.), with 3 also on Morgan Pond through 22 May (BP, EH).

A few Blue-winged Teal lingered at a few Kentucky sites into late May, suggesting that a some pairs might nest. Single male **Cinnamon Teal** were present on the Johnsonville Lagoons, *Humphreys*, TN 29 Mar (RS, CF) and on a pond along Ironworks Pike n. of Lexington, *Fayette*, KY 28 Mar (ph. JSo, CSo et al.) through 7 Apr (DS). Tennessee's fifth **Harlequin Duck** lingered from the winter period and was last reported in *Carter* 11 May (RP). There were two Kentucky reports of Surf Scoter: 2 on Lexington Reservoir #4 on 18 Mar (BP) and one on Freeman Lake, *Hardin* 19 Apr (RHe et al.). White-winged Scoters were found twice in Kentucky: the female that was present on the Ohio River just upstream from Louisville during mid-Feb was last reported 24 Mar (SR); and 5 were found on the Ohio River above Meldahl Dam, *Bracken* 4 Apr (BW). An ad. male Black Scoter was found on Kentucky Lake above the dam 24 Apr (BP, EH, JSo). Presumably the same male Long-tailed Duck continued on Kentucky Lake above the dam through 7 Mar (BP, EH), while a female lingered from winter on Lake Breckenridge, *Cumberland*, TN through 2 Apr (EL).

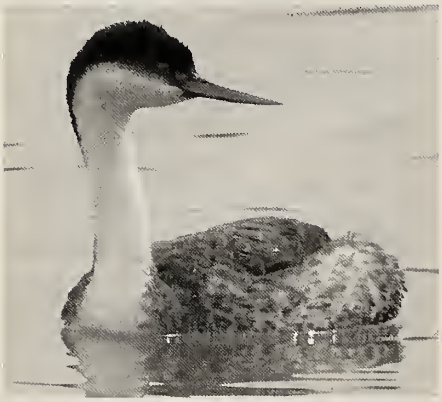
Two Red-throated Loons were found at Booker T. Washington S.P. 9 Mar (C&LE), and one was on Cave Run Lake, *Rowan*, KY 31 Mar (†BW). Peak counts of Common Loons included 85 at Percy Priest W.M.A., *Rutherford* TN 29 Mar (DE); 83 on Cave Run Lake, *Bath/Rowan*, KY 31 Mar (BW); and 64 on Barren River Lake, *Allen/Barren*, KY 21 Apr (EH, BP). Two Common Loons lingered on Barren River Lake, *Allen/Barren*, KY through 25 May (JBy, MBy). A few Pied-billed Grebes lingered on transient ponds in *Christian*, *Logan*, and *Warren*, KY into May, with nests observed at Morgan Pond (BP, EH, SK) and at a transient pond in sw. *Logan*, KY (ph. FL). A Red-necked Grebe was on Watauga Lake, *Carter*, TN 14 Apr–2 May (FA, m.ob.). Two Eared Grebes on McElroy Lake 13-18 May (ph. BP, EH et al.) were the only ones reported. Three Western Grebes were reported: one lingering from winter at Booker T. Washington S.P. 9 Mar (C&LE); one on the Ohio River at Louisville 15 Mar–12 Apr (ph. EH et al.); and one on Kentucky Lake above the dam 18 Apr (†BP, EH). Single Anhingas were reported in Kentucky, where the species remains casual: one in a heronry along Mayfield Creek upstream from KY 121, *Ballard/Carlisle* 10 May (†JSo, ph. AR); and an ad. male at the Sinclair Unit, Peabody W.M.A., *Muhlenberg* 11-13 May (ph. EH, ph. BP et al.). A female Anhinga was far from usual locations and a first record for the Cumberland Plateau in *Van Buren* 8 Apr (†, ph., *fide* SSo). Tallies of 867 American White Pelicans at various locales on the Ohio River upstream from Smithland, *Livingston*, KY 29 Mar (JSo) and 350+ on and along the Ohio River, *Henderson*, TN 5 Apr (CC) were relatively unusual for that far e. in the Region. Unprecedented for the season were 3 different Brown Pelicans found in Tennessee: one on Cherokee Lake, *Grainger* in mid-Apr (GL, *fide* SSo); an imm. at Fort Loudoun and Tellico Dams, *Loudoun* 25-27 May (SMo, m.ob.); and an ad. in *Roane* 5 Jun (†MK).

One to 3 Least Bitterns were found at five Kentucky locales in *Henderson*, *Hopkins*, *Muhlenberg*, and *Union* (two sites) 16 Apr–13 May. A Snowy Egret in s. *Jefferson*, KY 24 May (MA) was the only one reported away from the w. portion of the Region in Kentucky. A

This Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Ensley Bottoms, Shelby County, Tennessee was found 13 (here 27) May 2013 and stayed into June. *Photograph by Mike Todd.*



Cinnamon Teal are quite rare in the Tennessee and Kentucky region. This male was present at Lexington, Kentucky 28 (here 29) March through 7 April 2013. *Photograph by David Lang.*



Although detected annually in the Tennessee and Kentucky region in recent years, Western Grebes are still quite rare in the region. This bird was present on the Ohio River at Louisville, Kentucky 15 March (here) through 12 April 2013. *Photograph by Eddie Huber.*

Tricolored Heron was at Duck River Unit 21 Apr (SZ) and 24 May (SE). There were three reports of **Glossy Ibis** in Kentucky: one at the Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan* 28 Apr (BW, ph. DL, ph. JSo, BY, MYa et al.), and one at the Long Creek Refuge, Land Between the Lakes, *Trigg* 18-19 May (ph. MC et al.), with 2 there 24 May (ph. MC). A **White-faced Ibis** was at the Long Creek Refuge, Land Between the Lakes, *Trigg*, KY 24 May (ph. MC), while one to 2 lingered at Ensley 25 Apr–4 May (RS, JWa).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

An Osprey nest that was under construction near Athens, *Fayette*, KY 19 Apr (DS) represented a first for the county. A Mississippi Kite at the Dry Creek Unit, Barren River Lake W.M.A., *Barren* 11 May (JBy, MBy) was the only one reported in Kentucky away from traditional breeding areas. Mississippi Kites were reported from several areas across middle and e. Tennessee, including one at Clarksville, *Montgomery* 15 & 21 May (StW), one at Sharp's Ridge, *Knox* 2 May (SMc), and one at Craven's House, *Hamilton* 3 May (DJ, m.ob.). Bald Eagle nests were documented for the first time in *Carter*, *Johnson*, *Unicoi*, and *Washington*, the four ne. counties in Tennessee, as the breeding population expands. An ad. dark-morph Western Red-tailed Hawk was unusual in *Rutherford*, TN 10 Mar (†SSo), as was a Krider's Red-tailed Hawk in *Davidson*, TN 16 Mar (JSh). Single Broad-winged Hawks se. of Mount Zion, *Allen* 20 Mar (MBy) and e. of Rockfield, *Warren* 28 Mar (TD) were the earliest to be reported in Kentucky. A Golden Eagle at Bernheim Forest, *Bullitt/Nelson*, KY 5 Mar (KV) was the latest to be reported from the wintering population there. An extremely tardy ad. Golden Eagle was reported at Fort Campbell, *Montgomery*, TN 11 & 14 May (DM). One to 2 Virginia Rails were reported at four Kentucky locales 5-29 Apr in *Henderson*, *Marshall*, *McCracken*, and *Muhlenberg*. A Purple Gallinule was at Duck River Unit 28 Apr (RS). Up to 6 Common Gallinules per site were found at four Kentucky locales 23 Mar–26 May in *Henderson*, *Muhlenberg* (two sites), and *Rowan*.

Some noteworthy peak counts for migratory shorebirds included 600+ American Golden-Plovers adjacent to Obion W.M.A., *Fulton*, KY 28 Mar (BP); 300-350 Lesser Yellowlegs adjacent to Obion W.M.A., *Fulton*, KY 31 Mar (BP, MSt, JSo); 500-600 Semipalmated Sandpipers at McElroy Lake, with ca. 75 at Walton Pond, *Warren*, KY and 450-500 at Morgan Pond, all 22 May (BP, EH); at least 400 Least Sandpipers at Morgan Pond 10 May (BP, EH); 1500-2000 Pectoral Sandpipers adjacent to Obion W.M.A., *Fulton*, KY 28 Mar (BP); and 265+ Wilson's Snipe at Eagleville, *Rutherford*, TN 14 Mar (SSo). A Black-bellied Plover at Sand Slough, w. *Henderson*, KY 13 Apr (BP, BBC) was the earliest to be reported. A flock of 18 American Golden-Plovers at Spindletop Farm, *Fayette*, KY 8 Apr (DL) was the largest flock ever reported in n.-cen. Kentucky. Thirty-Semipalmated Plovers made an high count for middle Tennessee at Eagleville, *Rutherford* 28 Apr (SSo). At least 300 Killdeer at Eagleville, *Rutherford* 11 Mar (SSo) represents a Tennessee spring high count. Black-necked Stilts remain relatively uncommon in Kentucky; 3 at Obion W.M.A., *Fulton* 31 Mar (BP, MSt, JSo) were the earliest to be reported in Kentucky; 2 were first noted at McElroy Lake 23 May (TD), with two pairs on nests there 31 May (TD, MYa, BP). It was an excellent season for American Avocets, with seven reports in Kentucky and four in Tennessee. Notable reports included 18 on Kentucky Lake, *Marshall*, KY 23 Apr (BP, EH); 19 at Snow Bunting Peninsula 24 Apr (PC, SZ, m.ob.); 36 at Steele Creek Park, *Sullivan*, TN 27 Apr (LM, m.ob.) that tied the state high count; and 21 at Kentucky Dam Village S.R.P., *Marshall*, KY 28 Apr (BL, ph. BM), with 13 there 10 May (ph. MYa, BY, JSo).

There were only six reports of one to 53 Willets in Kentucky 17 Apr–31 May, with the peak count of 53 present at Kentucky Dam, *Marshall* 10 May (ph. MY, BY, JSo). Willets made good appearances in Tennessee: 60 at Snow Bunting Peninsula 27 Apr (CSl, FF, m.ob.); 2 at an odd location on Woods Reservoir, *Franklin* 28 Apr (RC); and 35 that were unusual in se. Tennessee in *Polk* 9 May (RHo). Single Upland Sandpipers were found at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery, *Anderson*, TN 23-24 Apr (TK, m.ob.), at Eagleville, *Rutherford*, TN 28-29 Apr (SZ, SSo, m.ob.), and at Murfreesboro, *Rutherford*, TN 12 May (DE). There were two Kentucky reports of Whimbrel, one at Kentucky Bend, *Fulton* 19 May (ph. BP, ph. EH) and one at McElroy Lake 22 May (ph. EH, ph. BP). Up to 11 Ruddy Turnstones per site were found on seven occasions at four Kentucky sites 16-22 May. One to 5 Sanderlings were reported at three Kentucky locales 3-22 May. A high count of 125+ Semipalmated Sandpipers away from w. Tennessee was found at Veterans Parkway Fields, *Rutherford* 21 May (SSo). Single Western Sandpipers, always a good find in the Region during spring, were found on two occasions in Kentucky: at Sauerheber 29 Apr (BP, EH) and at the Long Point Unit Reelfoot N.W.R., *Fulton* 30 Apr (BL, BM). Spring migrant Least Sandpipers continue to arrive earlier each year; 5 at the J. C. Jones Rd. sinkhole ponds, *Hart*, KY (JSo) and 6 at Sauerheber (BL), both 3 Mar, were not present during winter and indicate how early some migrants arrive in the Region. White-rumped Sandpipers are unusual finds away from w. Tennessee; one at Bells Bend, *Davidson* 11 May (CSl, m.ob.), 7 at Veterans Parkway Fields, *Rutherford* 16 May (SSo), and 6 at Brainard Levee, *Hamilton* 17 May (KCa) were notable. Dunlins were not particularly numerous this spring in the Region, with one to 65 reported at seven Kentucky locales 3 Mar–23 May. Stilt Sandpipers put on a decent showing in Kentucky, with one to 10 reported at eight locales 25 Apr–22 May. Red-necked Phalaropes were found at three Kentucky locales: 2 females at Hays Kennedy Park, Louisville 4-6 May (ph. ALi, m.ob.), with one still there 7 May (ph. EH); a female at McElroy Lake (MBy, JBy, m.ob.) and 3 at Morgan Pond (BP, EH), both 18 May; and one at Morgan Pond 21 May (BL, C&SRo). Tennessee hosted one at Austin Springs, *Washington* 6 May (TM, m.ob.). Two **Red Phalaropes** in s. *Jefferson*, KY 8 May (JBe, PB, CB, RL, ph. EH et al.) represented a first ever for the Region during spring and were apparently part of an unprecedented inland dispersal of migrants in the e.-cen. United States during early May.

GULLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

A first-cycle Bonaparte's Gull at McElroy Lake 16 May (BP, EH, SK) was tardy, while at least 800 at Percy Priest W.M.A., *Rutherford*, TN

California Gulls are almost annual visitors to the Tennessee and Kentucky region. This adult was present on Lake Barkley, Lyon County, Kentucky 1-7 (here 7) March 2013. *Photograph by Eddie Huber.*

12 Mar (SSo) was a good count for late in the season. An ad. **Little Gull** was well observed at Chester Frost Park, *Hamilton*, TN 17 Mar (DJ, m.ob.). and represented Tennessee's ninth record and only second record outside the winter period. An ad. **California Gull** was present on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, KY 1-7 Mar (ph. BP, ph. EH, BW, MA). Two lingering Thayer's Gulls were reported in Kentucky: a first-cycle bird at Kentucky Dam 1 & 8 Mar (BP, EH, BW, BP, ph. EH) and an ad. at Barkley Dam, *Livingston/Lyon* 22 Mar (†RD). Several Lesser Black-backed Gulls continued on Lake Barkley, *Lyon* and Kentucky Lake, *Marshall*, KY through Apr, with an ad. and a first-cycle bird at Kentucky Dam Village S.R.P., *Marshall* 1 May (BP, EH) and a first- or second-cycle bird last reported there 3 May (BP, EH). Also reported was an ad. at Freeman Lake, *Hardin*, KY 31 Mar (RHe). A first-cycle **Great Black-backed Gull** was present at Kentucky Dam 8 Mar (ph. EH, ph. BP).

Tennessee had only two previous Mar records of Caspian Tern, until they were found at three different locations this year: one at Pace Point, Tennessee N.W.R., *Henry* 28 Mar (CF); 2 at New Johnsonville, *Humphreys* 30 Mar (MiT); and one at John Sevier Lake, *Hawkins* 31 Mar (†SH). It was a good season in Kentucky for Black Terns, with more than a dozen reports of one to 30 at five locales 10-22 May and an impressive peak count of 85 at McElroy Lake 17 May (TD). Common Terns were reported at only two Kentucky sites: 25 at Kentucky Dam Village S.R.P., *Marshall* 10 May (ph. MYa, BY, JSo), with at least 10 over Kentucky Lake nearby 11 May (EH, BP); and one at McElroy Lake 18 May (JBy, MBy, JBk, AB, TB).

There were three reports of single **White-winged Doves**: at Henderson, *Henderson*, KY 12 May (ph. CC et al.), at Nashville, *Davidson*, TN 18-20 Apr (†MBi), and at Smithville, *DeKalb*, TN 25 Apr (†TC). A **Common Ground-Dove** was found in *Gibson*, TN 2 Apr (MG). An above-average number of Black-billed Cuckoos were reported in Kentucky, with more than a dozen reports from nine locales 23 Apr–26 May. Three Long-eared Owls continuing from winter were seen at the Wendell Ford Regional Training Center, *Muhlenberg*, KY 23 Mar (BP, ph. DL et al.). Short-eared Owls lingered at a few Kentucky sites with 2 e. of Morganfield, *Union* 5 Apr (BP) and one along Elkhorn Creek s. of Stamping Ground, *Scott* 6 Apr (JSo) being the latest to be reported. Single Northern Saw-whet Owls were heard calling at two Kentucky locales: one se. of Foster, *Bracken* 9 Mar (†TyF, TrF et al.) and one w. of Cave City, *Barren* 2 Apr (C&ROl, *fide* SK). Five Rufous Hummingbirds successfully overwintered in Kentucky, with the latest dates of observation for the birds in *Barren*, *Campbell*, *Hart*, *Pike*, and *Pulaski* occurring 30 Mar–19 Apr. A presumed spring migrant *Selasphorus* (presumed Rufous), the first such ever reported in the Kentucky, was present s. of Glasgow, *Barren* 18-20 Apr (ph. L&RY).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

It was an excellent season for Olive-sided Flycatchers in Kentucky, with at least 12 reports of single birds 2-26 May; there were only two reports in Tennessee: one at Radnor Lake S.P., *Davidson* 11 May (CSl) and one at Cheatham W.M.A., *Cheatham* 20 May (†SSo). An Eastern Wood-Pewee heard along Beaver Creek, *Menifee*, KY 13 Apr (†BW) was extraordinarily early. An Alder Flycatcher made a rare record for *Rutherford*, TN 16-18 May (SSo, DE, m.ob.). The **Say's Phoebe** that wintered ne. of Almo, *Calloway*, KY was last seen 7 Mar (HC, BL). Western Kingbirds were found at eight or more historical nesting sites in *Shelby*, TN 27 May (MiT). An ad. Northern Shrike was present on the former Gibraltar Mine, *Muhlenberg*, KY 23 Mar (ph., †BP, ph. SaW, DL, MaT, JSw, JN). A shrike at the Sinclair Unit, Peabody W.M.A., *Muhlenberg*, KY 8 Mar (P&SF, KD) might have been the previously reported Northern at that locale.

Tennessee's only known breeding population of Bell's Vireo continues at Fort Campbell, *Montgomery*, with one singing male present 16 May (DM). Common Ravens nested under the grandstands on the Bristol Motor Speedway, *Sullivan*, TN with 3 young in the nest 22 Apr (MSp); this represents the first known nesting on a manmade structure in Tennessee. One on Cross Mountain, *Campbell*, TN 27 Apr (SSo) was rare for the Cumberland Plateau. An impressive migrant flock of at least 3000 and possibly 5000 Tree Swallows were seen e. of Morganfield, *Union*, KY 12 Apr (BP, EH). A Northern Rough-winged Swallow se. of Mount Zion, *Allen*, KY 13 Mar (MBy) represented an early spring arrival date for Kentucky by one day. Migrant Red-breasted Nuthatches lingered into mid-May with the latest being singles at Land Between the Lakes N.R.A., *Lyon*, KY 11 May (BP, EH), at the Lexington Cemetery, KY 14 May (†DL), and in *Marion*, TN 14 May (TR). The 2 **Brown-headed Nuthatches** present since Jan near Gilbertsville, *Marshall*, KY lingered through the spring season; an active nest (a state first) was located there 21 Apr (ph. FR). There were four Kentucky reports of Sedge Wren: 2 e. of Morganfield, *Union* 29 Apr (BP, EH); one heard near Lake No. 9, *Fulton* 1 May (BP, EH); 3 heard at Kentucky Bend, *Fulton* 19 May (BP, EH); and one in ne. *Jefferson* 26 May (BP). The only reports of Bewick's Wren came from traditional nesting areas in Tennessee: a male singing in *Rutherford*, although the bird was only found at this location on 18 Mar (CW), and a successful nest in *Wilson* not discovered until after the young had fledged (SZ). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Lexington, KY 21 May (DCh) was tardy. A Hermit Thrush at Boone County Cliffs S.N.P., KY 10 May (†TyF, R&BMc) was tardy. Tardy American Pipits included 20 along the Ohio River at Hebron, *Boone*, KY 12 May (LM) and singles in s. *Warren*, KY 13 May (BP, EH) and at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, KY 18 May (JBy, MBy et al.). A few Lapland Longspurs were still present at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, KY 21 Mar (BP, EH), with a few heard in w. *Fulton*, KY 28 Mar (BP). Tennessee's second **McCown's Longspur** was photographed at Camp Jordan, *Hamilton* 23 Mar (†DJ, m.ob.).

A Northern Waterthrush in Land Between the Lakes, Trigg, KY 14 Apr (†ST, DT, KT) was early. A Lawrence's Warbler was reported at McConnell Springs, *Fayette*, KY 30 Apr (†LT). The cool, wet spring was not conducive to generating many early spring reports for warblers, but the following were relatively early: a Nashville Warbler in *Calloway*, KY 7

This Brown-headed Nuthatch nest in Marshall County (here 22 May 2013) represented a first for Kentucky. *Photograph by Frank Renfrow.*

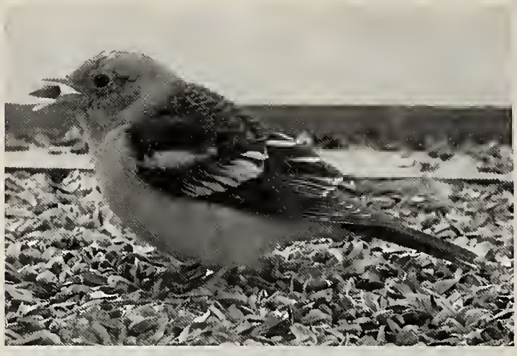
Apr (KCo); an American Redstart in *Madison*, KY 9 Apr (†RF, RB); a Cape May Warbler se. of Mount Zion, *Allen*, KY 19 Apr (JBy, MBy) that tied the early spring arrival date for the state; a Yellow Warbler in *Trigg*, KY 4 Apr (BL); Blackpoll Warblers at Lexington, KY (C&GT) and in *Trigg*, KY (BL), both 17 Apr; and a Yellow-breasted Chat in *Allen*, KY 18 Apr (MBy). It was an extraordinary season for Orange-crowned Warblers in Kentucky, with at least 20 reports from more than a dozen locales; highlights included one to 2 in Land Between the Lakes N.R.A., *Lyon/Trigg* on several dates 12 Apr–6 May (BL et al.), with 4 there 26-27 Apr (BL, BM) and an extraordinary tally of at least 8 there 24 Apr (BL, EH, BP). There were seven Kentucky reports of one to 2 Connecticut Warblers 10-23 May. Single Mourning Warblers were found on 10 occasions in Kentucky 7-26 May. A Common Yellowthroat at Sauerheber 30 Mar (ES, DCo) may have been continuing from winter or a very early migrant. Tennessee's latest spring Cape May Warbler was found in *Knox* 5 Jun (MN). A singing male Black-throated Blue Warbler in Land Between the Lakes N.R.A., *Lyon*, KY 3 May (BP, EH, BL, BM) was relatively unusual for so far west. A Yellow-rumped Warbler in Land Between the Lakes N.R.A., *Trigg*, KY 20 May (BL) represented a new late spring departure date for the state by a day.

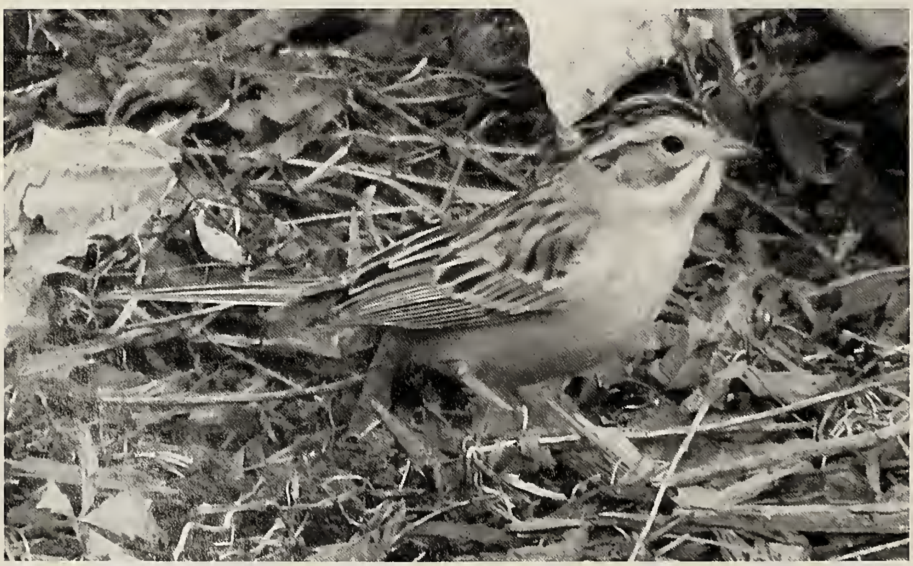
SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

As is the norm, the only Kentucky reports of Bachman's Sparrow came from the traditional breeding areas on Fort Campbell, *Trigg*, where 4 were reported 29 Apr and 6 May (2 on each date; DM). A singing **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found at Sycamore Shoals S.P., *Carter*, TN 11-13 May (TM, m.ob.). There were two reports of Le Conte's Sparrow in Kentucky: at least 8 at the former Gibraltar Mine, *Muhlenberg* 23 Mar (BP, ph. DL et al.) and ca. 6 at Sauerheber 13 Apr (BP, BBC). The Nelson's Sparrow that was discovered in ne. *Jefferson*, KY 16 Dec was relocated at the same location 14 Apr (ph. BP) and lingered through 19 Apr (BP, ph. EH), representing overwintering in the Region for the first time. Remarkably, there were two separate reports of **Western Tanager** in Kentucky: a male coming to feeders in a yard s. of Lawrenceburg, *Anderson* 27-29 Mar (ph., vt. BS) and a male at the Lexington Cemetery 29 Apr (ph. TN, ph. DL).

A total of 450 Bobolinks in w. *Fulton* 30 Apr (BL, BM) represented the season peak count in Kentucky. Ten at the Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park, *Jessamine*, KY stayed until 29 May and appeared to be on territory (AE, JSw). One to 3 Western Meadowlarks were found at six Kentucky locales with an active nest, the first ever discovered in Kentucky, found in w. *Fulton* 2 May (ph. BP, EH); unfortunately farming activities destroyed the nest. A Western Meadowlark at McElroy Lake 21 Mar (ph. BP, EH) was relatively far east. A female Yellow-headed Blackbird was present in w. *Fulton*, KY 30 Apr (BL, ph. BM). A new Kentucky high count of at least 350 (probably 500 or more) Brewer's Blackbirds was tallied along Frostburg Rd., w. *Hopkins* 23 Mar (BP, DL, JSw, JN), with at least 75 still there 5 Apr (BP).

Flocks of Purple Finches lingered at a few locales into late Apr, with latest reports being one at Rock Bridge, *Wolfe*, KY 8 May (BP, JD) and one in *Sullivan*, TN 27 May (*fide* RK). Following the presence of Red Crossbills at a few locales during the winter season, the species remained locally distributed through the early spring: 4 were still at Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville 20 Mar (BP); 2 at Kentucky Dam Village S.R.P., *Marshall*, KY 7-8 Mar (BP, ph. EH, BW, MA, BP, EH), last reported there 25 May (ph. FR), were confirmed as Type 2 (*fide* MYo). Twelve Reds were at Lexington, KY 24 Mar (DS); call notes of a Type 3 bird were recorded in ne. *Jefferson*, KY 4 Apr (vr. BP, *fide* MYo); 2 were at Eubank, *Pulaski*, KY 9 May (GC); and 5 were in e. *Trigg*, KY 19 May (BL). In Tennessee, Red Crossbills were reported at four locales: up to 9 in *Hamilton* 14 Mar–16 Apr (DH), 4-8+ in *Cumberland* 19 Apr–27 May (EL), one in *White* 4 May (EL), and 4 in *Van Buren* 24 May (SSo). A few White-winged Crossbills lingered at Lexington, KY into Mar, with 3 last reported at the cemetery there 26 Mar (ph. EH, BP, JWi); 3 were also found a few km away at Spindletop Farm, *Fayette* 29 Mar (C&GT), with 8 last seen there 30 Mar (ph. RD). Also reported were one at Buckley Hills Sanctuary, *Woodford*, KY 10 Mar (ph. TW); 5 at St. Anne's Convent, Melbourne, *Campbell*, KY 14 Mar (ph. FR); and 3 in ne. *Jefferson*, KY 4 Apr (ph. BP). Pine Siskins lingered through the second week of May, with the latest lingering birds reported as follows: 4 at Kentucky Dam Village S.R.P., *Marshall*, KY 23 May (FR); 2 at Land Between the Lakes, *Lyon/Trigg*, KY 25 May (JPo); one at Berea, *Madison*, KY 26 May (GBo, JPe); one at Erlanger, *Kenton*, KY through 29 May (EG); and one at a nonbreeding site at low elevation in *Carter*, TN 2 Jun (*fide* RK). As many as 15 Evening Grosbeaks continued at Woodsbend, *Morgan*, KY into mid-Mar (B&BA, NE), with a few last seen there 26 Apr (B&BA); also reported were 5 flyover birds at Louisville, KY 7 Mar (RL) and a female near Waddy, *Shelby*, KY 24 Mar (DD).


This male Western Tanager, a Kentucky first, was present in a yard in Anderson County 27-29 (here 29) March 2013. *Photograph by Bob Snow.*


Clay-colored Sparrow is very rare in Tennessee, and few linger more than one day. This individual was at a feeder in Carter County and sang periodically 11-13 May 2013. *Photograph by Tom McNeil.*

Observers: Fred Alsop (FA), Brenda & Bud Angus (B&BA), Michael Autin (MA), Rebecca Bates (RB), Jamin Beachy (JBy), Matthan Beachy (MBy), Beckham Bird Club (BBC), Jane Bell (JBe), Pat Bell (PB), Carol Besse (CB), Michael Bierly (MBi), Gretchen Bolton (GBo), Abraham Brubaker (AB), John David Brubaker (JBk), Timothy Brubaker (TB), John Brunjes (JBr), Gerald Burnett (GBu), Kevin Calhoon (KCa), Richard Candler (RC), Phillip Casteel (PC), Hap Chambers (HC), Don Chesnut (DCh), Kathy Cohen (KCo), Dan Collins (DCo), Granville Cox (GC), Charlie Crawford (CC), Melodie Cunningham (MC), Tommie Curtis (TC), Kathy Dennis (KD), Roseanna Denton (RD), Don Dott (DD), Jon Dunn (JD), Tom Durbin (TD), Amanda Echelbach (AE), Norman Elam (NE), Shawn Ellis (SE), Daniel Estabrooks (DE), Chuck & Lola Estes (C&LE), Frank Fekel (FF), Clayton Ferrell (CF), Tracy Ficker (TrF), Tyler Ficker (TyF), Preston & Shari Forsythe (P&SF), Rob Foster (RF), Mark Greene (MG), Ed Groneman (EG), Richard Healy (RHe), David Hollie (DH), Rick Houlk (RHo), Eddie Huber (EH), Susan Hubley (SH), Dan Jacobson (DJ), Kentucky Ornithological Society (KOS), Tony King (TK), Janet Kistler (JK), Steve Kistler (SK), Rick Knight (RK), Marge Krampe (MK), Rob Lane (RL), David Lang (DL), Ed LeGrand (EL), Amy Lint (ALi), Bill Lisowsky (BL), Gary Loucks (GL), Frank Lyne (FL), Larry McDaniel (LM), Rene & Bill McGill (R&BMc), Lee McNeely (LM), Tom McNeil (TM), Stephany McNew (SMc), Mac & Susan McWhirter (M&SM), Bobby Metz (BM), Keith Michalski (KM), Sharon Moffett (SMo), Daniel Moss (DM), multiple observers (m.ob.), Tina Nauman (TN), Mike Nelson (MN), Jeff Noffsinger (JN), Colleen & Rick Olson (C&ROl), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BP), Jennifer Perkins (JPe), Rick Phillips (RP), John Pollpeter (JPo), Andy Radomski (AR), Frank Renfrow (FR), Steve Rogers (SR), Tommie Rogers (TR), Cyndi & Steve Routledge (C&SRo), Jan Shaw (JSh), Chris Sloan (CSl), Bob Snow (BS), Carol Sole (CSo), Jeff Sole (JSo), Scott Somershoe (SSo), Michelle Sparks (MSp), Evan Speck (ES), Seth Spencer (SSp), Matt Stickel (MSt), Ruben Stoll (RS), Dave Svetich (DS), Joe Swanson (JSw), Laurie Thomas (LT), Mike Todd (MiT), Mark Tower (MaT), Charles & Gretchen Tremoulet (C&GT), Debby Tyson (DT), Katie Tyson (KT), Steve Tyson (ST), Kelly Vowels (KV), Chloe Walker (CW), Jay Walko (JWa), Jim Williams (JWi), Tim Williams (TW), Sam Woodall (SaW), Stefan Woltmann (StW), Helen Wright-North (HW), Brian Wulker (BW), Ben Yandell (BY), Mary Yandell (MYa), Lew & Ruth Young (L&RY), Matt Young (MYo), Stephen Zipperer (SZ).

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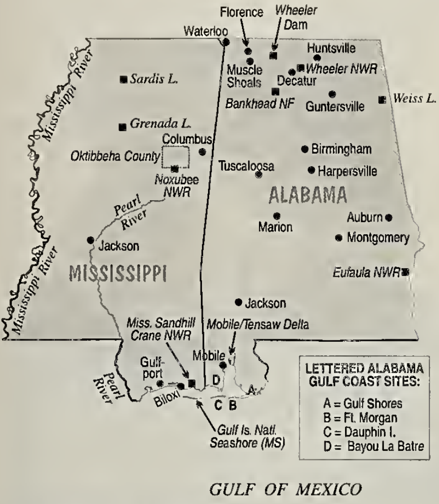
(WINTER REPORT) • Alabama & Mississippi


Florence
Wheeler Dam
Waterloo
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Muscle Shoals
Wheeler NWR
Decatur
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Bankhead NF
Guntersville
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Mississippi River
Grenada L.
Columbus
Oktibbeha County
Birmingham
Tuscaloosa
Harpersville
Noxubee NWR
ALABAMA
Pearl River
Auburn
Marion
Montgomery
Jackson
MISSISSIPPI
Eufaula NWR
Mississippi River
Jackson
Miss. Sandhill Crane NWR
Mobile/Tensaw Delta
Gulf-port
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Pearl River
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A
C B
Gulf Is. Natl. Seashore (MS)
LETTERED ALABAMA GULF COAST SITES:
A = Gulf Shores
B = Ft. Morgan
C = Dauphin I.
D = Bayou La Batre
GULF OF MEXICO

C. Dwight Cooley

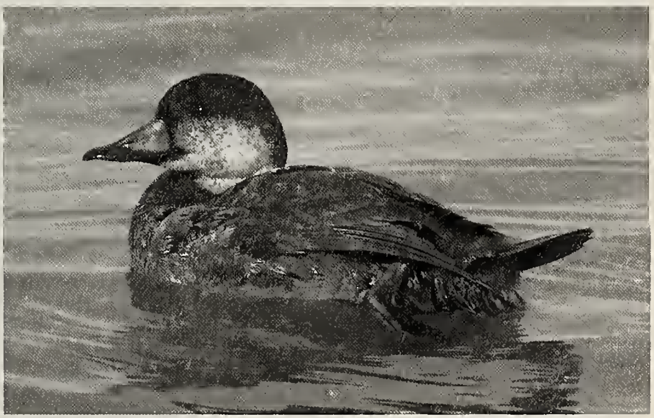
The winter of 2012-2013 was relatively mild and wet in the northern part of the Region and mild and dry in the southern part. Temperatures fell below freezing on more than twenty dates, and there was one measurable snowfall event. Significant ornithological events in the Region were many, but the flight of Razorbills into coastal Alabama was the most amazing.

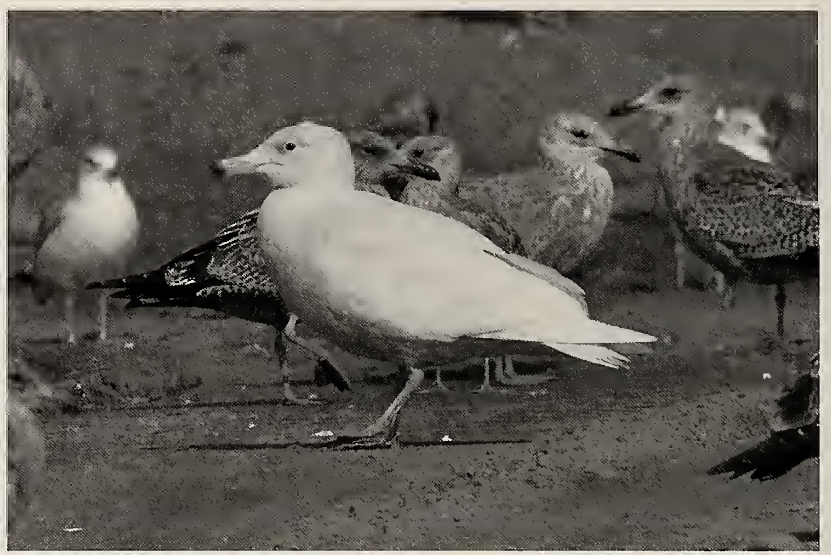
Abbreviations: E.N.W.R. (Eufaula N.W.R.), N.N.W.R. (Noxubee N.W.R.), S.C.W.M.A. (Swan Creek W.M.A.), W.N.W.R. (Wheeler N.W.R.).

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBISES

Waterfowl numbers in the Region were average at best, but variety was excellent. A Fulvous Whistling-Duck on the Christmas count at W.N.W.R., *Limestone*, AL 15 Dec (RR, RSH, DCH) was a first for the refuge. Ross's Geese were widely reported, though in smaller numbers than previous years. The only Cackling Goose reported was in *Tunica*, MS 11 Jan (JHo, ph.). A striking male Eurasian Wigeon at W.N.W.R., *Morgan*, AL 4-5 Jan (SRM, m.ob., ph.) represented the fifth refuge record. Up to 5 Greater Scaup were at Speigner, *Elmore*, AL 30 Dec–21 Feb (VC, LRG), where the species is decidedly rare. Scoters were well reported. A female-type Surf was at Bessemer, *Jefferson*, AL 2-7 Dec (SSH, m.ob.). Three White-winged Scoters were on Columbus Lake, *Lowndes*, MS 5 Jan (DP, JP, FD), and several were seen from Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*, AL 6 Jan–10 Feb (GDJ, BS, m.ob.). Black Scoters were numerous, following the massive influx s. to Florida and the Gulf of the late autumn, which continued through much of the winter. A female-type Black Scoter was near Proctor, *Limestone*, AL 5 Dec (DJS, ph.); up to 4 were off Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, AL 18 Dec–15 Jan (DWD, AH, m.ob.); up to 30 were off Gulf Shores/Orange Beach, *Baldwin*, AL 18 Dec (HEH, GDJ, RAD, LRD, m.ob.); and 3 were at the mouth of Dog River, *Mobile*, AL 16 Jan (ECS, JAT, CJ). In Alabama, Long-tailed Ducks are rare, so 3 near Speigner 26 Dec (VC) and 6 along the Tennessee River at Town Creek, *Lauderdale/Lawrence* 26 Jan (DJS, m.ob.) were noteworthy.

Traditional loon wintering sites continue to produce. Single Red-throated Loons were at Wheeler Dam, *Lauderdale/Lawrence*, AL 1 Dec (DJS, m.ob.), Orange Beach, AL 5 Jan


Black Scoters were almost plentiful along the Alabama coast in winter 2012-2013. This immature male was photographed 8 December 2013 at Fort Morgan, Baldwin County. *Photograph by Greg D. Jackson.*



This immature Glaucous Gull at Magnolia Springs Landfill, Baldwin County, Alabama pleased gull aficionados from 21 January 2013 (here) through the end of the winter period. *Photograph by Lisa Comer.*

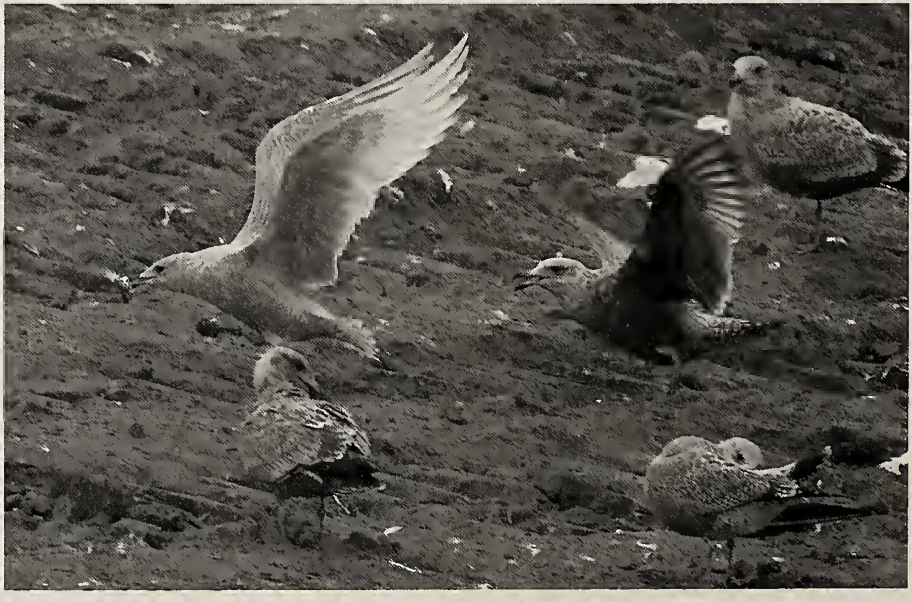
(GDJ), and Bay Springs Lake, *Tishomingo*, MS 5 Jan (WRP). Always rare in Alabama, 2 Red-necked Grebes were reported from Colbert Ferry Park, *Colbert* 15 Dec (SAW, PN, SB), and 4 were near Spring Creek, *Lawrence* 26-27 Jan (DJS, m.ob.). Seawatching along the Alabama coast provided several interesting records. Four **Great Shearwaters**, a state maximum, were seen from the Gulf State Pier, *Baldwin* 15 Dec (GDJ), and singles were at Gulf Shores 31 Jan (KH, ph.) and 10 Feb (BS, KH, ph.). The state's fourteenth record of Sooty Shearwater was made 1-2 km s. of Pelican Island, *Mobile* 9 Dec (AH, HEH, JS). Up to 6 Audubon's Shearwaters were seen from Gulf Shores 24-28 Jan (GDJ, BS, KC). As is often the case, identification of all shearwaters observed to species was not possible. Three large shearwaters were off Pelican Island 20 Dec (AH), and single small shearwaters, probably Audubon's, were seen from Gulf Shores 6 Jan (GDJ) and 10 Feb (LFG, LW). Magnificent Frigatebirds are quite rare during winter along the Alabama coast. Two were 1-2 km s. of Pelican Island 9 Dec (AH, HEH, JS, ph.) and one at the Dauphin Island Airport 20 Dec (DWD, CPD).

Anhingas remain Regionally rare inland in winter. Up to 5 were on Bluff Lake and Loakfoma Lake, at N.N.W.R., *Noxubee*, MS throughout the reporting period (TLS, MHS, ZL, JH), and one was at Speigner, AL 1 Jan (LFG). Once rare inland during winter, American White Pelicans are now almost commonplace. In Alabama, 2565 were at W.N.W.R. 4 Dec (*fide* CDC), a state winter maximum; 97 were found in the Kennedy Unit of E.N.W.R., *Barbour* 14 Dec (GEH); 115+, a record-high count for the Mountain Region of the state, were on the Coosa River at Riverside, *St. Claire/Talladega*, AL 4 Jan (JPo, ph.); 20+ were near Lannett, *Chambers* 11 Jan (RM); and 75 were on the Chattahooche River near Columbia, *Henry* 8 Feb (RT). Two Cattle Egrets were at W.N.W.R., *Morgan*, AL 21 Jan (AGM, TK, m.ob.), where they are occasional in winter. An ad. Glossy Ibis was at W.N.W.R., *Morgan* 1 Dec–26 Jan (CDC, m.ob.), and a White-faced was near Daphne, *Baldwin*, AL 5-8 Dec (KC, JN).

VULTURES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

An estimated 600 Black Vultures at Guntersville Dam, *Marshall*, AL 5 Feb (MH) made a state maximum. Ospreys continue to rebound, with good numbers recorded inland during winter. In Alabama, singles were at Wheeler Dam 1 Dec–26 Jan (DJS, m.ob.) and Bessemer/McCalla, *Jefferson* 3 Feb (KWi). Once found almost annually, Rough-legged Hawk has become less than occasional in Alabama. One was on the Christmas count at W.N.W.R. in White Springs, *Limestone* 15 Dec (RRS, MBS). An ad. Golden Eagle at N.N.W.R., *Noxubee*, MS 19-20 Jan (SR, SLe) was recorded on a game camera as part of a project to document winter distribution in the e. United States.

Conventional thinking is that Yellow Rails winter regularly along the Alabama/Mississippi coast, but their distribution, numbers, and habitats are poorly known. Banding studies in wet pine savannah are beginning to shed some light on their distribution. Six were netted and banded at Grand Bay N.W.R., *Mobile*, AL 15 Jan–26 Feb (ECS, JAT, m.ob., ph.). A Black Rail was seen and heard calling on Little Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, AL 15 Dec (HEH, RWH) during the Dauphin Island C.B.C. Virginia Rails were widely reported. In Alabama, 18 found on the Gulf Shores C.B.C. 5 Jan made a new state maximum (*fide* GDJ), and one was in Town Creek Marsh, *Colbert* 27 Jan (JAT, AA, CJ). In Mississippi, one was near Brooksville, *Noxubee* 16 Dec–5 Jan (TLS) and 2 at Coldwater N.W.R., *Quitman/Tallahatchie* 6 Jan (JHo). The number of Sandhill Cranes reported—and the number of localities from which they are reported—are both increasing annually. The maximum reported this season was of 12,000 at W.N.W.R. 8 Jan (*fide* CDC), establishing a new state maximum. Whooping Cranes from the experimental e. population continue to winter at W.N.W.R. in increasing numbers, with a maximum of 13 recorded



This first-cycle Iceland Gull made a brief 7 December 2012 appearance at the Magnolia Springs Landfill, Baldwin County, Alabama. *Photograph by Greg D. Jackson.*

in early Jan (*fide* CDC).

Sooty Shearwaters are rare at any time in Alabama waters, but even more so in winter. This individual was photographed south of Dauphin Island, Mobile County 9 December 2012. Winter records have increased sharply in the western North Atlantic in the past 15 years. *Photograph by Andrew Haffenden.*

The 26 Snowy Plovers recorded on the Dauphin Island C.B.C. 15 Dec (*fide* TS) established an Alabama maximum. Spotted Sandpipers are becoming rare but regular inland winterers in the Region. Singles were on the Auburn C.B.C. near Auburn, *Lee*, AL 15 Dec (GEH) and on Oktibbeha County Lake, *Oktibbeha*, MS 18 Dec–18 Feb (TLS). Three Dunlins near McLeod, *Noxubee*, MS 19 Jan (TLS, MHS) established a tenth area winter record. Rare in winter, a Stilt Sandpiper was at Gulf Shores, AL 8 Dec (GDJ). Winter dowitchers are rarely recorded inland in Alabama, so the 2 Long-billeds on the Montgomery C.B.C. 5 Jan (LFG, ph.) and the 6 unidentified dowitchers at Limestone Bay during the C.B.C. at W.N.W.R. 15 Dec (RR) were noteworthy.

Laughing Gulls have shown a growing tendency to winter inland over the past 10 years. Adults were found on Columbus Lake, MS 18 Jan (TLS) and near Spring Creek, AL 26 Jan (DJS, m.ob., ph.). Although Franklin's Gulls usually move through the Region well before Dec, they occasionally overwinter. Up to 6 were at Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, AL 6-11 Dec (KC, GDJ, BCG, PR, ph.), and one was at Gulf Shores, AL 14 Jan (LFG). Surprisingly, the only Thayer's Gull report was of a first-cycle bird at the *Tunica* Landfill, MS 2 Dec–2 Feb (JW, GK, SK). Alabama's twelfth Iceland Gull was a first-cycle bird at Magnolia Springs 7 Dec (GDJ, ph.). Lesser Black-backed Gulls continue to be well reported. An imm. was at Dauphin Island/Pelican Island, AL 5 Dec–8 Jan (AH); up to 8, in various plumages, were near Magnolia Springs, AL 7 Dec–26 Jan (GDJ, m.ob., ph.); an ad. was on the Waterloo C.B.C. near Bear Creek, *Colbert*, AL 15 Dec (JTG, JG); and a first-cycle Lesser was in *Tunica*, MS 11 Jan (JHo, ph.). Two imm. Glaucous Gulls were at Magnolia Springs, AL 21 Jan+ (LC, m.ob., ph.) as was Alabama's second Glaucous × Herring hybrid 7 Dec (GDJ). Rare but expected, 3 Great Black-backed Gulls were at Dauphin Island, AL 9 Dec–29 Jan (AH). Forster's Terns were found in large numbers in n. Alabama: 153, a new inland maximum, were recorded on the Waterloo C.B.C. 15 Dec (*fide* PDK), and 105 were counted at Guntersville 19 Jan (GDJ).

The movement of White-winged Doves into the Region continued, with 15 in Mobile, *Mobile*, AL 21 Jan (BN, CN) and 2 farther inland at Excel, *Monroe*, AL 30 Jan–21 Feb (AA, ph.). Short-eared Owls were scarce in many traditional areas, with the exception of the Mississippi River valley in Mississippi, where 5 were seen along Buck Island Rd., *Tunica* 2 Dec (JHo, ph.). One was seen from the Dauphin Island Causeway, *Mobile*, AL 12 Dec (AH, BCG, PR), where they are occasional. Five Northern Saw-whet Owls were netted and banded 11 Dec–4 Feb at Clay, *Jefferson*, AL (RRS, MBS), where they are now expected in winter. The only lingering Common Nighthawk was one at Mobile, AL 11 Jan (PR).

Five hummingbird species were documented in the Region this winter. Six Rufous Hummingbirds, all previously banded, were recorded on the Birmingham, AL C.B.C. 22 Dec (*fide* RRS), and 2, an ad. and an imm., were in *Lauderdale*, MS 21 Jan (JHo, ph.). An Allen's Hummingbird was at Eufaula, AL 2 Dec (FB, SL, b.), while an imm. male was at Foley, *Baldwin*, AL 27 Dec–5 Jan (FB, EB, b., ph.). Calliope Hummingbirds were at Lillian, *Baldwin*, AL 12 Dec, when 2 were banded, and 7 Feb, when a third was banded (FB, JD); an imm. male was at Mountain Brook, *Jefferson*, AL 27 Dec (RRS, b.); and one was at Point Clear, *Baldwin*, AL 4 Jan (FB, EL, CL, b.). An imm. female Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Columbus, MS continued from fall through the winter period, representing a first area winter record (RRS, MBS, RB, TLS, b., ph.). A Buff-bellied Hummingbird was at Lillian, AL 19 Jan+ (DJS, JD, FB, b.).

FALCONS THROUGH FINCHES

Merlins are wintering inland with increasing regularity and were well reported, with singles on the W.N.W.R., *Morgan*, AL C.B.C. 15 Dec (DB, LBr); on the Birmingham C.B.C., *Jefferson*, AL 22 Dec (SSH, DPG); at S.C.W.M.A., *Limestone*, AL 27 Dec (BH); at the Mississippi State University North Farm, *Oktibbeha*, MS 21 Feb (TLS); and at Hickory, *Newton*, MS 28 Feb (JMM). Lone Peregrine Falcons were at Guntersville Dam, AL 26 Dec–14 Feb (KW, m.ob.) and at W.N.W.R., *Morgan*, AL 6 Jan (SRM).

Vermilion Flycatchers are now almost annual in occurrence in coastal Alabama counties. Two ad. males were found near Malbis, *Baldwin* 8 Dec–9 Feb (JN, KC, m.ob.), and an imm. male was near Magnolia Springs 9 Dec (GDJ, ph.). Single Western King-

SA With word of a significant **Razorbill** flight along the Atlantic Coast and through the Straits of Florida, seawatchers along the Gulf Coast flocked to often cold and lonely winter sites to initiate their vigils in hopes of experiencing this unprecedented event. Howard Horne and Andrew Haffenden were the first to strike alcid gold in Alabama on 6 Jan when they witnessed 2 Razorbills winging their way westward past Gulf State Park Pier in Gulf Shores, *Baldwin*. By the end of the winter period, 10 additional sightings of multiple birds were recorded. A maximum of 6 individuals was tallied on two days. All reports came from along 11 km of shore between the Gulf State Park Pier and Perdido Pass to the east, most from the Pier. Most often recorded were flybys, but some Razorbills were noted at rest on the water's surface and some were photographed. It is virtually impossible to determine the number of individuals involved in this flight in Alabama (in which birds were recorded into Apr), but certainly during the event, it's possible that several dozen birds were involved in the records.

Vermilion Flycatcher is rare but regular in coastal Alabama. This bright adult male lingered near Malbis, Baldwin County from 8 December 2012 (here) through 9 February 2013. *Photograph by Janice Neitzel.*

birds were found on Alabama C.B.C.s at Dauphin Island 15 Dec (*fide* TS) and Gulf Shores 5 Jan (WJB, GB). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, first noted on the Gulf Shores C.B.C., was at Perdido Pass, *Baldwin*, AL 5-19 Jan (GDJ, DJS, MC). White-eyed Vireo put in an impressive inland showing. Singles were at W.N.W.R., *Limestone*, AL 15 Dec (RRS, MBS), a first Tennessee Valley winter record; in *Oktibbeha*, MS 27 Dec+ (TLS), where they are recorded about every other winter; at Shorter, *Macon*, AL 14-15 Jan (ECS); at the Wehle Nature Center near Midway, *Bullock*, AL 24 Jan–22 Feb (JAT); and near Andalusia, *Covington*, AL 16 Feb (TWS). In addition, up to 4 singing birds were in a different location in Andalusia 27 Jan–17 Feb (TWS). Blue-headed Vireos, all in Alabama, were recorded inland at W.N.W.R., *Limestone* 15 Dec (DPG); at Coosa W.M.A., *Coosa* 19 Dec–6 Feb (JAT, ECS); and on the Birmingham C.B.C. at Ruffner Mountain Nature Center, *Jefferson* 22 Dec (GJH).

Fish Crows continue their northward expansion above the fall line in Alabama, with 3 at W.N.W.R., *Limestone* 15 Dec (RSH), 4 on the Waterloo C.B.C., *Lauderdale/Colbert* 15 Dec (DJS), and one at Wheeler Dam 26 Jan (DJS). A Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the Birmingham C.B.C. 22 Dec (PAR, LB) furnished Alabama's first inland winter record; a Cave Swallow near Grand Bay, *Mobile* 3 Jan (AH) made Alabama's fourth winter record. Bewick's Wren, increasingly scarce in the e. United States, was seen near Grenada Lake, *Yalobusha*, MS 19 Dec (GK, AS, CP). Sprague's Pipit probably occurs in the Region more often than reported. One was near Foley, AL 1 Dec (BS, DM, m.ob.), and another was in *Tunica*, MS 2 Dec (JHo, ph.). Lapland Longspur is fairly common in winter across the n. half of the Region but rare along the coast, where 10 were found on the Gulf Shores C.B.C. near Foley, AL 5 Jan (RSH, DCH).

Wintering warblers of several species are being found with increasing regularity in the Region. Reports of six species involving 20 individuals were received. More notable records from Alabama include a Black-and-white Warbler at E.N.W.R. 2 Feb (JAT); a female Audubon's Warbler at the Wehle Nature Center near Midway 2-5 Dec (JAT); and different Wilson's Warblers at Mobile 19 Dec (BCG), Roebuck, *Jefferson* 21 Jan (RSD), and Mobile 15 Feb (EF, KWa). An ad. male **Spotted Towhee**, accidental in Mississippi, was at the Strawberry Plains Audubon Center, *Marshall* 5 Dec (GK, AS, CP). **Clay-colored Sparrows**, considered accidental in Mississippi, were near Enid Lake, *Yalobusha* 1 Dec (GK, SK) and Sardis Waterfowl Refuge, *Lafayette* 22 Dec (GK). Eleven Henslow's Sparrows were banded at Grand Bay N.W.R., AL 15 Jan (ECS, JAT). Up to 4 Le Conte's Sparrows were at N.N.W.R., *Winston*, MS 2-15 Dec (ZL, TLS, MHS) and S.C.W.M.A., AL 22 Dec–4 Jan (JMH, CG, BC, SRM, SWM), while 2 were at Sardis Waterfowl Refuge, MS 28 Jan (JHo, AS). Two Lincoln's Sparrows were at S.C.W.M.A. *Limestone*, AL 15 Dec (JMH, CG), and one was at W.N.W.R., *Limestone*, AL 22 Dec (SRM, ph.), where rare but regular in winter.

Rare in Alabama in winter, a Summer Tanager was on the Montgomery C.B.C., *Montgomery* 5 Jan (LFG). A female Rose-breasted Grosbeak, representing a fifth area winter record, visited a feeder daily near Adaton, *Oktibbeha*, MS 2-7 Dec (TLS, MLS); and an ad. male was at Mobile, AL 20-24 Dec (BN,CN). Rare inland in winter, single male Indigo Buntings were at Killen, *Lauderdale*, AL 4 Jan (MC, ph.) and Montgomery 12 Jan (LFG, ph.). The only Painted Buntings reported were 3 at Ozark, *Dale*, AL 18 Dec–23 Feb (LJ). Occurring annually in the Region, though difficult to find, up to 10 Western Meadowlarks were in *Tunica*, MS 2 Dec–11 Jan (JHo, ph.). Alabama's second **Hooded Oriole**, an ad. male, visited a feeder in Mobile 17 Dec+ (p.a., RW, m.ob., ph.). Baltimore Orioles in Alabama were reported on the Montgomery C.B.C. (CTS) and the Gulf Shores C.B.C. (RAD, LRD), both 5 Jan. An amazing 1000+ Pine Siskins visited Clay, AL 15 Jan (RRS, MBS), an Alabama maximum.

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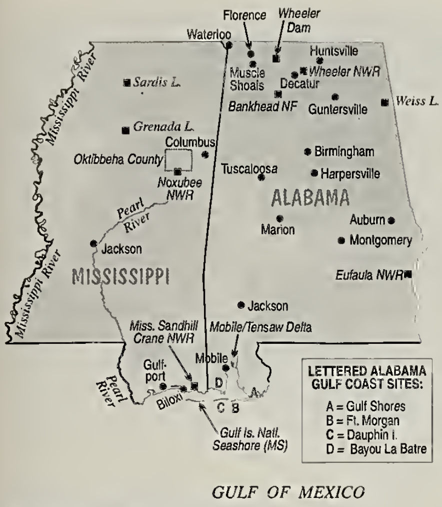


Steven W. McConnell

The Region's bird headlines were dominated this season by the continuing presence of wintering Razorbills in the Gulf of Mexico and the discovery of Alabama's second Band-tailed Pigeon, the first fully documented for the state. Weather was generally 1-3° C cooler than normal across the Region, with rainfall 1-2 cm below normal in March but then up to 2 cm above normal April through May. Several weather-induced, migrant waves of varying size and duration were reported by coastal Alabama observers, with the fallouts of 3-5, 15, 29 April and 2 May the most notable.

Abbreviations: Dauphin (Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, AL); Fort Morgan (Fort Morgan State Historical Park, *Baldwin*, AL); G.C. (Gulf Coastal Region of s. Alabama); I.C.P. (Inland Coastal Plain Region of s.-cen. Alabama); Noxubee (Noxubee N.W.R., *Noxubee/Oktibbeha/Winston*, MS); Seaman (Seaman Road lagoons, *Jackson*, MS); T.V. (Tennessee Valley Region of n. Alabama); Wheeler (Wheeler N.W.R., *Limestone/Morgan/Madison*, AL).

WATERFOWL THROUGH GREBES

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continue to a thin presence across the Region, with 13 reports received from mostly the same locations where the species has been found in recent years. The main difference this season was the small size of the flocks reported. The maximum group reported was comprised of only 9 birds in *Hancock*, MS 5 Apr (NB). A spring G.C. record for staging Gadwall was 2100 along the Mobile Causeway in *Mobile*, AL 26 Mar (JW). A spring I.C.P. record high Blue-winged Teal count was established 24 Mar by the 130 at a turf farm in *Montgomery* (LFG). New spring records were also set for the G.C. by 54 Ring-necked Ducks 1 Mar near Hartford, *Geneva* (RW) and in the I.C.P. by at least 200 Lesser Scaup 16 Mar near Marion, *Perry* (DCH, RSH). Four White-winged Scoters were discovered 2 Mar at Speigner, *Elmore*, AL and furnished only the fourth I.C.P. record (GDJ, DGJ). Only one Long-tailed Duck observation was turned in: 1-2 birds at the West Ship Island, *Harrison*, MS 8 Mar–6 Apr (BD, S&SW). Another spring G.C. record total was set 13 Mar by the 116 Buffleheads counted at several stops around Dauphin (JHe, AH).

By 9 Mar, the inventory of Common Loons at Guntersville, *Marshall* had built to 365, establishing a new Alabama spring maximum (GDJ). The same day, 2480 Pied-billed Grebes and 635 Horned Grebes were also counted at the same location, both also new Alabama spring maxima (GDJ). A Western Grebe found 15 Apr on Bluff Lake at Noxubee furnished a first county and refuge record (vt. JHa, m.ob.). Two days later, another (or the same) Western Grebe was found at nearby Oktibbeha County Lake, *Oktibbeha*, MS, where it delighted many observers by lingering until 5 May (ph. TLS, m.ob.).

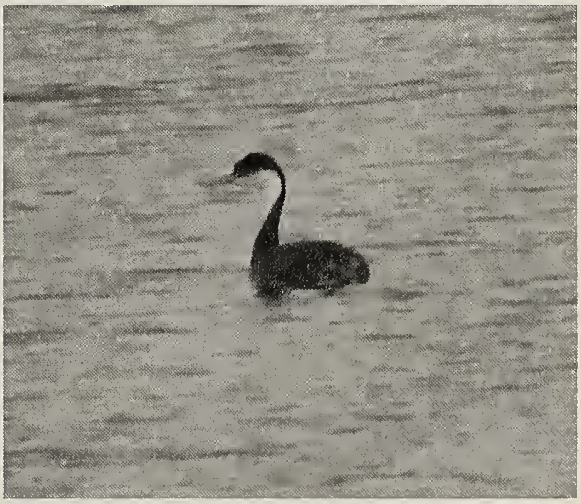
STORKS THROUGH RAILS

Four Wood Storks were seen 19 May at Noxubee, representing the only report for the species this season (JS). A new spring I.C.P. maximum count for Double-crested Cormorant was established 19 Mar by 275 counted in the area of the Alabama River, *Elmore* (MJJ). Brown Pelicans are very rarely found inland within Mississippi. This season, two sightings were made from the ne. quadrant of the state: a juv. at Noxubee 27-30 Mar furnished only a second refuge record (ph. TLS, MS, JHo), and an ad. was documented with American White Pelicans 1-3 May at Columbus Lake in *Lowndes*, MS, only the third county record (TLS, MS, DP, JP). A new spring I.C.P. high count for Great Egret was established 26 Mar by the 135 totaled in *Hale* (BCG). Two inland ad. Tricolored Herons were rare finds away from the Alabama coast, at Eufaula N.W.R. in *Barbour* 5 May (ph. JAT) and at the heronry at Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence* 29 May (DJS). Up to 8 White-faced Ibis were seen at Seaman 27 Apr–9 May (NB), furnishing an excellent count. Turkey Vultures made their presence known on the G.C. 7 Mar when 60 were counted at Bon Secour N.W.R., *Baldwin* (NC), a new spring high total. Although their inland presence is more expected now than even a few years ago, Ospreys continue to make spring season news in our Region. A new I.C.P. spring maximum count was established 4 Mar by the 6 at Eufaula N.W.R., *Barbour* (JAT), and a single bird 9 Mar near Guntersville Dam, *Marshall* tied the earliest spring T.V. date (GDJ). Not to be outdone, 2 were early returnees 7 Mar at Columbus Lake, *Lowndes*, MS (TLS, MS), where the species has nested annually since 2008. Observations of this pair continued through 30 May, and one nestling successfully fledged. Two Golden Eagles were found at Talladega N.F., *Cleburne*, AL 3 Mar (ECS, JAT). The species rarely makes appearances in the n. half of Alabama, but the frequency of these appearances seems to be increasing.

Marsh bird searches were once again conducted at night along the coast of our Region. Five Yellow Rails were seen (4 of which were captured) at the Sandhill Crane N.W.R., *Jackson*, MS 4 Mar (b., ph. JHo, KM, m.ob.). One Yellow Rail was found 19 Mar by a hardworking search party at Grand Bay Savanna, *Mobile*, AL (m.ob.), where the species has been found several times in recent years.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH DOVES

Sightings of American Golden-Plover were far below the typical number received: just 22 in *Colbert*, AL 17 Mar (DJS, MCr), 40 in *Hancock*, MS 11 Mar (NB), and 50 in *Ok-*



Two documented sightings of Western Grebe rewarded birders in spring 2013 in northeastern Mississippi, where the species is considered casual. The first was discovered 15 April 2013 on Bluff Lake at Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, furnishing a first refuge record. On 17 April, this Western was found about 24 kilometers to the northwest, on Oktibbeha County Lake, where it furnished only the second county and site record. This grebe lingered until 5 May. The possibility the same bird was involved with both sightings cannot be ruled out. *Photograph by Terry L. Schiefer.*

SA **Razorbills** lingered from their winter incursion into the Gulf of Mexico, providing observers some final opportunities to see this likely once-in-a-lifetime rarity. Not unexpectedly, some of the last encounters involved dead or dying individuals that eventually became specimens. During the period 10 Mar–7 Apr, there were nine reports from the Alabama coast, mostly in the Gulf Shores/Perdido Beach area, comprising about 10 separate birds. Up to 3 were reported 16 Mar from two different locations. Also during this time, 2 birds were found dead on the beach, with one becoming a round skin specimen for the Auburn University collection. Later in the season, attendees to the Alabama Ornithological Society meeting on Dauphin 18 Apr were surprised to find a Razorbill wrecked on the beach at the city pier (see image, below). The specimen was also sent to Auburn (*, PR, ph. KH). This was the first and only Alabama record from w. of the mouth of Mobile Bay. The last record came six days later, 24 Apr, when a Razorbill was found dead on the beach at Bon Secour N.W.R., *Baldwin* (*Auburn University, SS, *fide* JO, BSu).

Wintering Razorbills continued to be seen sporadically along Alabama's Gulf coast well into the spring 2013 season. Ten of eleven reports were from Baldwin County on the east side of Mobile Bay. The one exception was this bird found wrecked 18 April 2013 on Dauphin Island, Mobile County, southwest of Mobile Bay. This bird was captured for rehabilitation but later expired. The specimen joined two others found dead on Baldwin County beaches. All have been added to the collection at Auburn University. *Photograph by Kathy Hicks.*

tibbeha, MS 23 Mar (JHo) were reported. Nineteen Wilson's Plovers were counted 17 Apr during a shorebird survey on Dauphin's w. end beach (JG), an excellent total for this Hurricane-*Katrina*-shortened shoreline. Rarely found within inland Alabama, 3 American Avocets were at Wilson Dam, *Colbert/Lauderdale* 14 Apr (ph. TMH), only the seventh spring inland state record. A rare Long-billed Curlew was at Camp Wilkes, *Harrison*, MS 19 Apr (PC). The 19 Marbled Godwits at Broadwater marina, *Harrison*, MS 4 Mar (JHo) made a noteworthy count. A new T.V. late record was set by the tardy Upland Sandpiper at Decatur, *Limestone* 13 May (GDJ). The 2500 Laughing Gulls observed along the Mobile Causeway, *Mobile/Baldwin* 20 Mar (JK) established a new spring Alabama high count. Both Ring-billed and Herring Gulls were also in evidence that day at the same location, with 550 and 170 counted respectively, both new spring G.C. maxima (JK). An ad. Great Black-backed Gull, rare in the Region, was in *Harrison*, MS 16-29 Mar (NB, OG). An impressive congregation of Sandwich Terns was noted 4 Apr when 300 were counted at West Ship Island, *Harrison*, MS (OG).

Vying for "rarity of the season" honors, a **Band-tailed Pigeon** appeared at a private feeder 11 Apr on Monte Sano in Huntsville (ph. JDG, m.ob.). Finding a ready food supply, this pigeon stayed until 27 Apr, to the delight of many birders. This is only the second time the species has been reported from Alabama (the first was from the G.C. in 1971) and is the first to be fully documented. A White-winged Dove at Excel, *Monroe* 14 Apr (AW) provided further evidence of the species' spread across the I.C.P. A pair of **Inca Doves** continued s. of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin*, AL 18 Mar–27 Apr; the species was discovered in 2012. Careful observations found a nest with eggs 4 Apr and fledglings 27 Apr to provide the first nesting confirmation for Alabama (ph. BSu). Inca Doves also were found 5 Mar at feeders in Diamondhead, *Hancock*, MS, where the species is rarely seen (ph. JHa, SE).

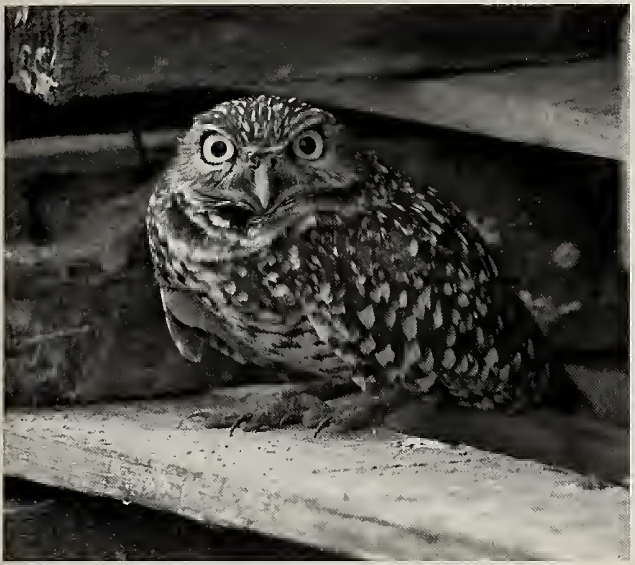
OWLS THROUGH WARBLERS

A cooperative **Burrowing Owl** was seen s. of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin* 18-19 Mar (DPl, ph. PR, m.ob.); there are 18 previous Alabama records. Eastern Whip-poor-wills were noted at two different *Bullock* locations 13-21 Mar (JAT), providing evidence for the second year in a row of range expansion farther into se. Alabama. A very eager Chimney Swift at Montgomery, *Montgomery* 12 Mar (LFG) tied the previous earliest I.C.P. record for the species. Up to 2 calling Yellow-bellied Flycatchers 3-4 May on Dauphin (ph. AH, BCG) furnished only the fifth spring G.C. record and tied the earliest Alabama report ever. Four singing Willow Flycatchers were noted 9 May at Cedarville, *Hale*, AL (JAT), and 4 more were found near Hartselle, *Morgan*, AL 18 May (MSG). These locations have hosted successful nesters since 2010 and 2009, respectively. Three Vermilion Flycatchers were found in Mississippi, where the species is only casually found. An ad. male was found at a farm in *Harrison* 4 Mar (ph. JHa), another ad. male was in *Pearl River* 4 Apr (NB), and another was at Camp Wilkes, *Harrison* 19 Apr (PC). Gray Kingbirds continued a thin presence on the Alabama coast. One was well seen at Fort Morgan 11-18 May (m.ob.), while another was on Dauphin 19-21 Apr (m.ob.). A swarm of Purple Martins over Leighton, *Colbert* 5 May was estimated to contain 400 individuals (DJS, MCr), a new spring T.V. high count. Four early Northern Rough-winged Swallows were seen 6 Mar at Montgomery, *Montgomery*, AL (LFG), and an early Cliff Swallow was noted the same day at the mouth of Town Creek, *Colbert*, AL (DJS). The only Cave Swallow report came 21 Apr from Fort Morgan (FF, PCas, MZ), where the species has been rare but regular in recent years. Six American Pipits were rather tardy 4 May on the Wheeler Spring Bird Count (KW, JE, DPy). Also very late was a Lapland Longspur 16 Mar in *Hinds*, MS (MC).

The Prothonotary Warbler at Marion, *Perry* 16 Mar (RSH, DCH) established a new early I.C.P. arrival date. Connecticut Warblers are rare transients through our Region in late spring. True to form, only two detections were made this season: an ad. male at the Birmingham Botanical Garden, *Jefferson*, AL 1 May (KA) and a singing bird heard w. of Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, AL 2 May (JTG, WM, DJS). Late by two days beyond the previous record was a Blackburnian Warbler at Starkville, *Oktibbeha*, MS 18 May (JHa). An impressive movement of Yellow Warblers through n. Alabama was documented 4 May by the 51 compiled during the Wheeler Spring Bird Count, a new T.V. high count (m.ob.).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

A tardy Vesper Sparrow seen during the Wheeler Spring Bird Count 4 May set a new



This Burrowing Owl was seen 18-19 (here 19) March 2013 in and around wooden pallets used to transport sod off a Baldwin County turf farm south of Magnolia Springs. This marks the second record in the past four years for Alabama, and nineteenth overall, though there was an eighteen-year gap leading up to the 2008 record. *Photograph by Patsy Russo.*

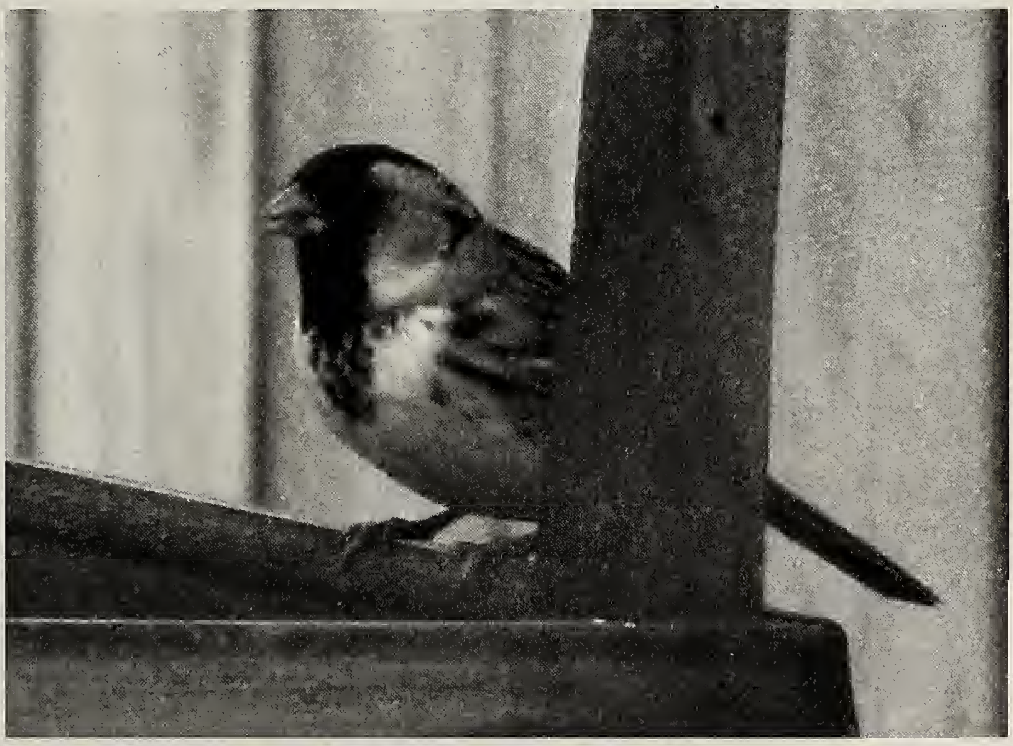
late T.V. date (JMH, CG), while the 24 Lark Sparrows (m.ob.) set a new high count for the season in Alabama. A Harris's Sparrow visited a residence at Minter City, *LeFlore* 30 Apr (ph. NH); the species is considered casual in Mississippi. An excellent count of 87 Blue Grosbeaks during the Wheeler Spring Bird Count 4 May furnished a new high total for the T.V. (m.ob.). A wintering male Painted Bunting remained at Ozark, *Dale*, AL through 21 Mar (LJ). An exciting development was the set of 5 male Painted Bunting observations 29 Mar–27 Apr from the I.C.P. at locations not previously known as breeding sites (m.ob.). While these could have been migrants, the possibility of continued expansion of the species' breeding range in Alabama cannot be ruled out. A Painted Bunting in *Lee*, MS 10 May (SW) was in the ne. part of the state, away from the species' classic Mississippi River breeding range.

An inland Yellow-headed Blackbird made an unusual find at Excel, *Monroe*, AL 28 Mar (AW); the species is only occasional is this area. Bronzed Cowbirds continued to maintain a small presence along the Mississippi coast. Up to 3 were found at the HB Lot, *Hancock* 6 Mar–3 May (NB), and 2 were seen in *Jackson* 5 May during an Audubon Coastal Bird Survey at Ocean Springs-Belle Fontaine (JW, CD). Some 4000 Common Grackles were observed at Wheeler 21 Mar, a new spring Alabama count (CDC).

A new spring Alabama high count was set for Purple Finch 2 Mar, when **200** (mostly males) were seen gorging themselves at a private feeder in *Jefferson* (RRS, MBS). In Jan 2013, a friend who had recently moved to Canada asked if we had any redpolls down our way? As it turned out, the subsequent five months proved that my answer should have been a resounding "Yes!" On 3 Mar, a Common Redpoll paid a brief visit to a feeder in Florence, *Lauderdale* (PN), providing an eleventh Alabama record. The cake was iced by another Common Redpoll discovered 14 May near Fort Morgan on the Alabama coast (ph. JN, m.ob.). This beauty stayed until 18 May and established not only the twelfth Alabama record but the latest on record; this bird would be be considered quite late almost anywhere in the Lower 48 states! A new spring T.V. record high count for American Goldfinch was established by the 160 compiled on the Wheeler Spring Bird Count 4 May (m.ob.).

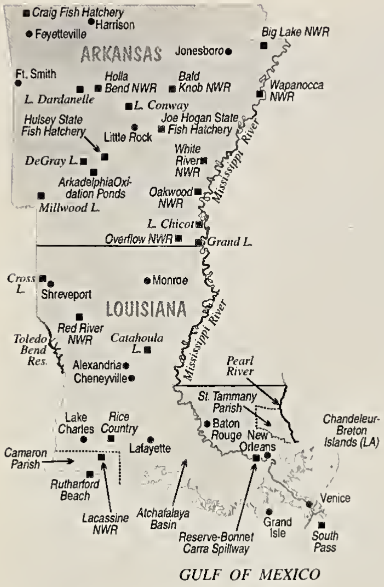
Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Ken Archambault, Ned Boyajian, N. Cantrell, Phil Carter, Philip Casteel, C. Dwight Cooley, Matt Crunk, Michael Cutler, Bob Dellinger, Charley Delmas, John Ehinger, Susan Epps, Frank Fekel, Lawrence F. Gardella, Ben C. Garmon, Jeff T. Garner, Jeff Gleason, Chuck Graham, Olivia Graves, Jerry D. Green, Andrew Haffenden, Thomas M. Haggerty, R. Stan Hamilton, Dana C. Hamilton, Jeffrey Harris, J. Milton Harris, Nell Henderson, Jennifer Henkel, Kathy Hicks, Jason Hoeksema, Debra G. Jackson, **Greg D. Jackson** (Alabama), Lynne Jones, Michael J. Jordan, Jon King, William Massey, Kelly Morris, Sue R. Moske, Janice Neitzel, Phyllis Nofzinger, Jan Osborn, Dianne Patterson, Jim Patterson, David Plumb, David Pylant, Patsy Russo, Martha B. Sargent, Robert R. Sargent, Marion Schiefer, **Terence L. Schiefer** (Mississippi), Sally Schultz, Damien J. Simbeck, Jeff Skevington, Eric C. Soehren, Bill Summerour, John A. Trent, Ken Ward, James White, Randy White, Susan Whiting, Steve & Sue Whitmer, Audra Wilson, Janet Wright, Mary Zimmerman.

Steven W. McConnell, 29 Village Drive NE, Hartselle, Alabama 35640, (swmavocet@aol.com)



This male Harris's Sparrow was a one-day-wonder 30 April 2013 at a feeder in Minter City, LeFlore County, Mississippi; the species is considered casual in the state. *Photograph by Nell Henderson.*

Arkansas & Louisiana


Craig Fish Hatchery
Harrison
Fayetteville
ARKANSAS
Jonesboro
Big Lake NWR
Ft. Smith
Holla Bend NWR
Bald Knob NWR
Wapanocca NWR
L. Dardanelle
L. Conway
Hulsey State Fish Hatchery
Little Rock
Joe Hogan State Fish Hatchery
DeGray L.
White River NWR
ArkadelphiaOxidation Ponds
Millwood L.
Oakwood NWR
Mississippi River
L. Chicot
Overflow NWR
Grand L.
Cross L.
Shreveport
Monroe
LOUISIANA
Red River NWR
Toledo Bend Res.
Catahoula L.
Alexandria
Cheneyville
Mississippi River
Pearl River
St. Tammany Parish
Baton Rouge
New Orleans
Chandeleur-Breton Islands (LA)
Lake Charles
Rice Country
Lafayette
Camaron Parish
Rutharford Beach
Lacassine NWR
Atchafalaya Basin
Reserve-Bonnet Carra Spillway
Grand Isle
Venice
South Pass
GULF OF MEXICO

Steven W. Cardiff
Kenny Nichols

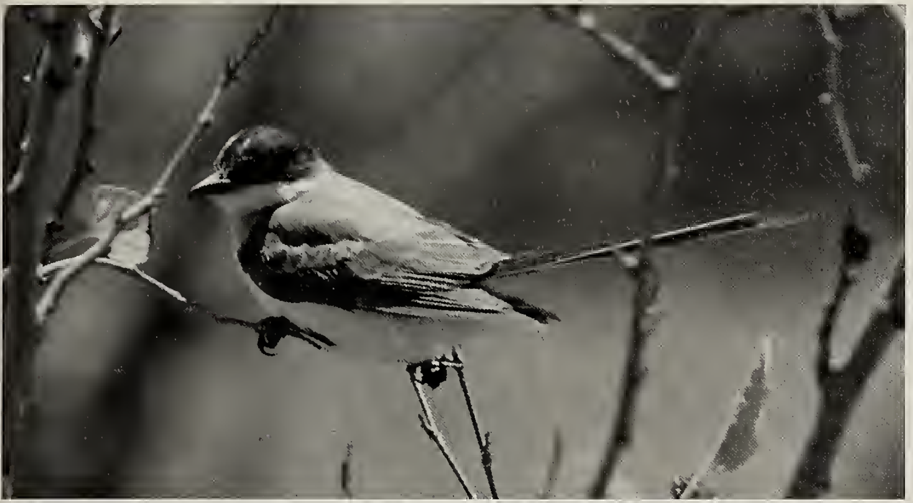
We have few general comments other than to note that it was a fairly early and warm spring with decent amounts of precipitation. Several strong late cold fronts swept across the Louisiana coast, resulting in some relatively spectacular migrant fallouts, especially at Grand Isle.

WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

Two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks identified at Cane Creek S.P., *Lincoln*, AR 1 May (Geoff Wright) would be a second county record of this rapidly expanding species. Unusually large numbers of Blue-winged Teal lingered into May in sw. Louisiana's rice-growing areas; an impressive 1440 were counted just in s. *Jefferson Davis* 5 May (SWC, DLD). As would be expected, there are many fewer records of Cinnamon Teal for se. Louisiana than for w. Louisiana. Thus, a male Cinnamon at Grand Isle, *Jefferson* 24 Mar (ph. PAW) and 13 Apr (ph. DO'M) was possibly just the third ever for this well-covered se. Louisiana locality and the first ad. male found there during spring. Another male Cinnamon Teal near Thornwell, *Jefferson Davis* 27-28 Apr (ph. SWC, DLD) made about the second latest record for Louisiana. An ad. male Surf Scoter on Lake Dardanelle, *Yell*, AR 11 May (K&LN) was a rare and very late spring migrant for the interior. Several Louisiana sightings of late spring Wood Storks were actually relatively "early" for this summer visitor and included one in *Pointe Coupee* 22 May (DO'M) and an unusually large early concentration of 90 in *St. Landry* 28 May (JVH). Very rare in the interior at any time, an ad. Brown Pelican was at Notrebes Bend Campground, *Arkansas*, AR 12 Apr (Cathie & Jack Foster). An ad. Glossy Ibis at the Yates Tract, Bayou Pierre Unit, Red River N.W.R., *Red River* 18-25 May (TD, ph. JT) was possibly the first well-documented record for nw. Louisiana. Farther n. in Arkansas, single White-faced Ibis were seen near Des Arc, *Prairie* 13 Apr and near Van Buren, *Crawford* 21 May (both K&LN). A dead Swallow-tailed Kite on Holly Beach, *Cameron*, LA 23 Mar (ph. PEC) had presumably succumbed to inclement weather while migrating directly across the Gulf of Mexico; one along the Sabine River in *Vernon*, LA 8 May (JVH) may have been a late migrant or attempting to breed in the area. An ad. female Sharp-shinned Hawk along the Bogue Chitto River s.-se. of Franklinton, *Washington* 14 May (Jennifer O. Coulson, Tom D. Coulson) was very late, especially for s. Louisiana. Swainson's Hawk is an uncommon migrant in the extreme w. counties of Arkansas, so a single light-morph ad. seen near Dardanelle, *Yell* 28 Apr was not too unusual, but one near DeVall's Bluff, *Prairie* 1 Apr and another near Gillett, *Arkansas* 4 May were farther e. and more unexpected (all K&LN); similarly, one over Harahan, *Jefferson* 8 May (ph. LW) may have represented the first documented record of a spring migrant in se. Louisiana. A subad. **White-tailed Hawk** in sw. *Calcasieu* 4 May (ph. MW) was just the third spring record for Louisiana and by far the latest; the previous spring birds were both found during Mar 2010, also in s. *Calcasieu*.

Inexplicably extremely rare in the Region, singing Black Rails detected just se. of Cameron, *Cameron*, LA 23 Mar (vr. EIJ) and 20 Apr (Glenn Seeholzer, Mike Harvey) and somewhat farther e. near Oak Grove, *Cameron* 26 Apr (DO'M) could not be subsequently relocated and were, therefore, presumed spring migrants. Three Sandhill Cranes near Dyer, *Crawford*, AR 7-8 Apr (Bill Beall, Jim Nieting, JCN) and 6 flyovers near Hector, *Pope*, AR 22 Apr (LA) were notably late for the Region. Five Black-necked Stilts near Maysville, *Benton* 11 May (JCN, JRe) made for just the third nw. Arkansas record. An uncommon bird in the Baton Rouge area (*East Baton Rouge* and adjacent parishes) was an American Avocet on the e. edge of the Atchafalaya Basin n. of Ramah, *Iberville* 13 May (JVR). The 58 Willets reported from Centerton, *Benton*, AR 19 Apr (Joanie Patterson) made a very high count for anywhere in the Region's deep interior. Another apparent first for nw. Louisiana was a Whimbrel at Elm Grove on the Red River in *Bossier* 22 May (TD, ph. CEL). Rare but annual, a single Hudsonian Godwit was reported from DeValls Bluff 13 Apr, and 2 were at Treadway's Minnow Farms, *Prairie* 20-21 Apr (all K&LN). Marbled Godwits are considered rare inland of the immediate coast, especially in spring, so one near Lacassine, *Jefferson Davis*, LA 13 Apr (ph. PEC), 3 near Centerton plus 2 more at Siloam Springs, *Benton* 18 Apr (after a night of heavy rains; JCN, MAM), and 2 near Hickory Plains, *Prairie* 24 Apr (K&LN) made for an above-average showing in the interior. Rare in the Region's far interior in spring and very, very early was a Ruddy Turnstone at Treadway's Minnow Farms 3-15 Apr; another was near Van Buren, *Crawford* AR 21 May (both K&LN). Sanderling is a rare spring migrant inland, so a single at Bald Knob N.W.R., *White* 21 May (K&LN, Terry Butler, Bob Harden) and another Van Buren, *Crawford* (K&LN) were worthy of mention. A single White-rumped Sandpiper at Grand Isle 19-21 Apr (SWC, ph. DLD, ph. Patricia Rosel, ph. DO'M, ph. Molly Richard) was apparently the second earliest ever well-documented Louisiana record and the earliest ever for se. Louisiana by a day. The second Ruff ever found in the nw. Arkansas Ozarks Region was e. of Maysville, *Benton* 11-12 May (ph. JCN, JRe), and yet another was discovered near Van Buren, *Crawford* 27 Apr (K&LN). Other uncommon, and relatively late, spring shorebirds for the Baton Rouge area included 2 Long-billed Dowitchers and 10 Wilson's Phalaropes n. of Ramah 13 May and a female Wilson's Phalarope at Baton Rouge 11 May (JVR). A Red-necked Phalarope, roosting

This first-cycle Iceland Gull at Venice, Plaquemines Parish, seen by many observers 9 March (here) through 7 April 2013 would represent (pending review by the Louisiana Bird Records Committee) just the second or third well-documented record for Louisiana. ***Photograph by Tom Johnson.***



One of the highlights of spring 2013 in Louisiana was this immature Fork-tailed Flycatcher, the state's third, at Grand Isle, Jefferson Parish 12-26 (here 20) April 2013. This relatively long-staying individual took advantage of the abundant ripe mulberry fruit available during its visit. *Photograph by Donna L. Dittmann.*

with a small flock of gulls on Lake Dardanelle 11 May (K&LN), made for an extra-interesting detection of this very rare spring migrant.

An imm. Laughing Gull was seen at Dardanelle Lock & Dam, *Yell* 28 Apr–11 May (K&LN); this site has become, by far, the most reliable Arkansas location for this species. The wintering California Gull first observed 19 Jan at the Calcasieu River mouth, *Cameron* remained through the exceptionally late date of 7 May (ph. Dave Patton, ph. BMM, ph. DO'M, JVH). As many as 24 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at the Venice landfill 9 Mar (ph. PAW) was probably close to a record concentration for Louisiana and illustrated how the species is now more or less expected in modest numbers in the coastal zone. A first-cycle **Iceland Gull** was at Venice, *Plaquemines* 9 Mar–7 Apr (ph. Tom Johnson, MMe, Nancy L. Newfield, ph. PAW, ph. TT, m.ob.); the only currently accepted Louisiana record involved a first-cycle bird at Holly Beach, *Cameron* 27 Apr 1994 (*Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science). A first-cycle Glaucous Gull at New Orleans 12 (ph. PAW) & 29 Mar (ph. TT) was thought to be the same individual first reported there 3 Dec 2012; another was spotted at Elmer's Island W.M.A., just w. of Grand Isle, *Jefferson* 20 Mar (ph. EIJ).

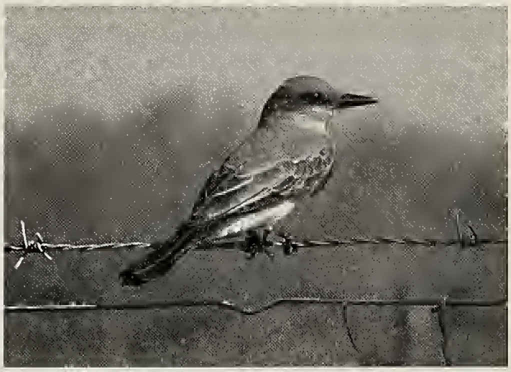
Apparently only the second record for the Baton Rouge area, and the first since 5 were seen during passage of Hurricane *Betsy* 10 Sep 1965, 3 well-described Gull-billed Terns were seen briefly at Baton Rouge 4 May (Noah Reid). Sixteen Least Terns at Elmer's Island 20 Mar (ph. EIJ) were very early even for the coast, and one on the Arkansas River above Wilbur D. Mills lock & dam, *Arkansas* 20 Apr (K&LN) was the earliest ever for Arkansas. Common Tern is a rare (possibly overlooked) migrant in the interior; an ad. was at Bald Knob N.W.R. 16 May (K&LN).

White-winged Doves are still considered rare in Arkansas outside the Fort Smith, *Sebastian* area, so singles near Harrison, *Boone* 9-10 Apr (Sheree Rogers) and Lexa, *Phillips* 9 May (Bill & Ann Billingsly) were considered noteworthy. An Inca Dove at Notrebes Bend Campground 16 Apr (ph. C&JF) made the first *Arkansas* record of this rare and local species, and one at Harahan 8 May (ph. LW) was also locally noteworthy for se. Louisiana. Black-billed Cuckoo is a rare spring migrant in the interior, and the 4 seen on Whitney Mountain, *Benton* 1 May (JCN, JRe) made an exceptional and unprecedented count. A Lesser Nighthawk at Baton Rouge Audubon Society's Peveto Woods Sanctuary, Johnsons Bayou, Cameron (hereafter, B.R.A.S.S.) 1 Apr was relatively early, and one there 11 May made for the second-latest (and latest supported by hard evidence) Louisiana record (both ph. PEC).

The only interesting woodpecker report was of a migrant Red-headed Woodpecker moving eastward from tree to tree, utility pole to utility pole, across farmland near Thornwell 5 May (SWC, DLD). Crested Caracaras continue to expand eastward across sw. Louisiana, but a pair at a nest near Thornwell 5 May (SWC, DLD) provided rare direct confirmation of breeding e. of *Cameron/Calcasieu*; the nest was apparently inactive during subsequent checks. Two American Kestrels at Grand Isle 27 Apr (JVR) were exceptionally late for the se. coast and were presumed late migrants rather than lingering wintering birds, as none were found there during heavy coverage 19-21 Apr.

PASSERINES

A Least Flycatcher at Grand Isle 21 Apr (DLD, DPM) was exceptionally "early" and far e. for this rare-in-spring circum-Gulf migrant; perhaps more likely it was the same individual that had been present at the same location during the preceding late winter; another at B.R.A.S.S. 28 Apr (vr. EIJ) was, on the other hand, presumably a legitimate and slightly early spring transient, and made the only other report of the season. A female Vermilion Flycatcher at Elbow Slough W.M.A. near Alexandria, *Rapides* 9 Apr (ph. JVH) was a rare spring bird for cen. Louisiana and may have been a lingering individual that had wintered



This Tropical/Couch's Kingbird near Johnsons Bayou, Cameron Parish 12 May 2013 was most likely the rarer (in Louisiana) Tropical based on the proportionately long bill, but the identification could not be confirmed by voice. Additional photographs showing the tips of the outer primaries could help to resolve the identification. *Photograph by Dan O'Malley.*

SA A "wintering" ad. Buff-bellied Hummingbird near St. Gabriel, *Iberville* (ph. DLD, SWC) unexpectedly remained into the first third of May, making for one of Louisiana's latest records ever. With one present so late in spring, the possibility of local breeding came to mind and, intriguingly, from 12-20 May up to 4 individuals could be accounted for, including birds considered as ad. male, ad. female, and 2 imms. in fresh juv. plumage (ph. DLD). From 21-27 May (last observed date), only one individual (an imm.) could be located. So, unfortunately, direct confirmation of breeding could not be obtained, but there was circumstantial evidence of breeding, and much closer monitoring of late-lingering wintering birds is certainly warranted in the future.

in the area. Undoubtedly one of the birds that had wintered locally, an Ash-throated Flycatcher at Bayou Sauvage N.W.R., *Orleans*, LA 23 Mar (ph. PAW) provided a valuable final observation date for this rare wintering species. The season's only report of Great Kiskadee involved an individual glimpsed and heard on several occasions at B.R.A.S.S. 25 Apr–1 May (Will Lewis, Kristen Kovino, Breanne Cooney, Todd Jones, JVH et al.). Several Tropical/Couch's Kingbirds found in extreme sw. *Cameron* were suggestive of Tropical but, unfortunately, could not be confirmed as such; they included one near Johnsons Bayou near B.R.A.S.S. 12 May (ph. DO'M, ph. PAW, ph. PEC) and an apparent pair near Sabine Pass 19 May (ph. PEC) that could not be subsequently relocated. A Western Kingbird at Diamond, *Plaquemines*, LA 10 Mar (PAW) was presumably a lingering winterer, whereas one at Grand Isle 27 Apr (ph. Casey Wright) was a rare spring transient in se. Louisiana. The species is a rare and very local breeder in the Region, so a pair along Rushing Rd., *Saline*, AR 4 May (Rhonda & Danny Townsend) and another pair at the Stonelinks G.C., *Pulaski* 18 May (Devin Moon & Stan Harrison) were notable. At least 3 Gray Kingbirds visited Grand Isle during Apr, including one at the island's e. end at Grand Isle S.P. 13-21 Apr (ph. Ned Coleman, TT, MMe, ph. PAW, EIJ), one on e.-cen. Grand Isle 19-27 Apr (EIJ, ph. DO'M, ph. PAW, ph. Jacob C. Cooper, JVR), and one at a different location on e.-cen. Grand Isle 19 Apr (ph. Eric Liffmann, Michael A. Seymour). Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is very rare in extreme ne. Arkansas, and the single in Paragould 18 May (David, Patrick, Laura & Dave Quinn) was a first for *Greene*.

A rarity in Arkansas, which has fewer than two-dozen records, and only the second for Pulaski County, this Common Redpoll was enjoyed by many observers at Little Rock 30 January (here) through 2 March 2013. *Photograph by Lyndal York.*

One of the more spectacular finds of the season was Louisiana's third **Fork-tailed Flycatcher**, a very cooperative imm. foraging on mulberries at Grand Isle 12-26 Apr (Glenn Ousset, DLD, SWC, EIJ, DO'M, Patricia Rosel, PAW, Rob Dobbs, JVR, ph. m.ob.).

This beautiful male Mountain Bluebird near Oppelo, Conway County 22 (here 28) March–3 April 2013 represented just the second record for Arkansas. *Photograph by Gail Miller.*

Rare but annual on the coast, single Black-whiskered Vireos were located at Grand Isle 13-19 Apr (ph. PAW, ph. DO'M) and at B.R.A.S.S. 19 Apr (ph. JVH, ph. Billy Jones). A Cave Swallow at Grand Isle 21 Apr (ph. DLD et al.) was the only report away from sw. Louisiana. Perhaps not too surprising in the aftermath of the preceding winter's unprecedented southward irruption, several late Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported and included individuals near St. Gabriel through 13 Apr (SWC, DLD), at Grand Isle through 24 Apr (SWC), at Harahan through 7 May (ph. LW), and e. of Cameron 12 May (ph. PEC). A Winter Wren near St. Gabriel 3 Apr (SWC) and a singing Sedge Wren near Thornwell 5 May (SWC, DLD) were both very late. Two singing male Marsh Wrens near Ramah 14 May (JVR) were not detected subsequently, so they might have represented winterers or late migrants.

Just the second record for Arkansas, a male **Mountain Bluebird** near Oppelo, *Conway* obliged state birders by remaining there 22 Mar–3 Apr (Justin Brand, ph. Michael Linz, ph. Gail Miller, ph. Dick Baxter, m.ob.). An American Pipit at Cocodrie, *Terrebonne*, LA 25 Apr (ph. JC) was quite late, especially for the immediate coast. Sprague's Pipit is considered a very rare spring migrant in Arkansas, so three reports was an above-average total: at Flanagan Prairie N.A., *Franklin* 15 Mar (Bill Holimon & Jennifer Akin), near Kibler, *Crawford* 8 Apr (JCN), and near Maysville, *Benton* 11 Apr (JCN, MAM). An Ovenbird at Grand Isle 7 Mar (EIJ) had undoubtedly overwintered there, and a freshly dead individual at Shreveport 26 May (*Louisiana State University Shreveport; JT, Jean Trahan) was a relatively late migrant. Just the second state record supported by hard evidence, and the first confirmed in se. Louisiana, a **Connecticut Warbler** was a gratifying discovery at Grand Isle 4 May (ph. RDP, PAW). A very late Orange-crowned Warbler, especially on the immediate coast, was near Sabine Pass 27 Apr (DO'M). Seldom seen in the Region's interior, a male Blackpoll Warbler at Athens, *Claiborne*, LA 12 May (JD) was also relatively late. Very rare in migration, a stunning male Black-throated Blue Warbler was observed near Hector, *Pope*, AR 21 Apr (LA); 2 different females were encountered in n. Louisiana—at Ruston, *Lincoln* 9-10 May (Gerry Click, JD, Teri Maness) and at Black Bayou N.W.R., *Ouachita* 10 May (Jeff Webster)—making for just the state's sixth and seventh inland spring records and also the latest. Interestingly, most of Louisiana's latest spring records of Palm Warbler are from the immediate coast early to mid-May, so one near Cade, *St. Martin*, LA 5 May (John Romano) was exceptional for a bird inland. Seldom found during spring migration, especially in recent decades, an Audubon's Warbler was a bonus at Willow Island e. of Cameron 27 Apr (ph. PAW). Very late was a Myrtle Warbler at Cotile Lake, *Rapides* 16 May (ph. JVH). A Prairie Warbler at Grand Isle 21 Apr (DO'M, Tori Bacheler) was a rare spring migrant on the se. coast or a lingering winterer. Grand Isle's wintering Black-throated Gray Warbler was last observed 4-5 Apr (ph. EIJ, ph. DO'M).

A wintering Chipping Sparrow lingered at Harahan through the relatively late date of 30 Apr (ph. LW). Clay-colored Sparrows are generally rare spring migrants in the Region, especially relatively far e., so one at Grand Isle 24 Apr (ph. LW) was unexpected and apparently just the second spring record for the island. Also noteworthy was one near Holla Bend N.W.R., *Yell* 28 Apr (ph. K&LN). Two of the wintering flock of Lark Sparrows at Harahan remained through 1 May, with one individual lingering until 5 May (ph. LW). A beautiful breeding-plumaged male **Lark Bunting** near Dardanelle 18 May (ph.

K&LN) was completely unexpected, especially so late, and was only the third ever found in Arkansas. A Le Conte's Sparrow near Sabine Pass 28 Apr (ph. PEC) ranked among the latest records ever for Louisiana's coastal zone. The status of Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*) in Louisiana is poorly understood, so one observed at Baton Rouge 25 Apr was of interest so far e. and relatively late; also mentionable was a late Eastern White-crowned (*Z. l. leucophrys*) there 6 May (both JVR). There were numerous s. Louisiana reports of unusually late Swamp Sparrows, the latest being one near Sorrento, *Ascension* 8 May (SWC) and a remarkable 6 near Sabine Pass 11 May (ph. PEC). Vagrant Western Tanagers were located at Holly Beach 27 Apr (ph. PEC) and at B.R.A.S.S. 11-12 May (BMM, ph. PEC). Relatively early migrant Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, both ad. males on 4 Apr, were sighted at B.R.A.S.S. (ph. BMM) and Grand Isle (Michael Plauche). A banded Dickcissel at L.S.U.M.N.S. 6-7 Mar (SWC, DLD, ph. Daniel F Lane) was surely wintering locally and conceivably the same bird banded a few km to the n. a few days earlier.

The only Louisiana reports of Yellow-headed Blackbirds were of an impressive concentration of 30 near the se. edge of Lake Charles, *Calcasieu* 26 Apr (ph. DO'M), and up to 4 different individuals at Thornwell 27-28 Apr (SWC, DLD); three Arkansas reports, all from 27 Apr, included an ad. male near Peter Pender, *Franklin* (K&LN), 6 near Holla Bend N.W.R. (K&LN), and 10 near Chesney Prairie, *Benton* (JCN, JRe). Ten Brewer's Blackbirds at Thornwell 28 Apr (SWC, DLD) were exceptionally late. Boat-tailed Grackles continued their colonization of inland s.-cen. Louisiana, where the presumed multi-year returnee male was on the s. outskirts of Baton Rouge 6 Apr (JVR) and 20-22 May (SWC, DLD), a flyby ad. male was near St. Gabriel 4 May (ph. DLD), 17 (10 males, 7 females) were found n. of Ramah 13 May (JVR), and an ad. male was at Morganza Spillway forebay, *Pointe Coupee* 19 May (Murrell Butler). Great-tailed Grackle remains rare e. of the Atchafalaya Basin/Mississippi River corridor, but records continue to accumulate, and it is probably only a matter of time before the species occupies this area of se. Louisiana. This season, an ad. male Great-tailed was observed near Ramah 7 Mar (JVR, ph. Ryan S. Terrill), and a singing male at Grand Isle 13-21 Apr (ph. Kimberly Lanka, SWC, ph. DLD) may have been the first well-documented record for the island. The season's only Shiny Cowbird was an ad. male at Cocodrie 10 May (which, interestingly, behaved like an exhausted trans-Gulf migrant; ph. JC), making an overdue first record for *Terrebonne*; previous well-documented reports have all been clustered around the Grand Isle/Port Fourchon area, around Lake Pontchartrain, in *Plaquemines*, and in extreme sw. Louisiana (mainly in *Cameron*). Arkansas's third **Scott's Oriole** visited Benton, *Saline* 24 Mar (ph. Kevin McClendon).

Arkansas's third Lark Bunting was a one-day wonder at Dardanelle, Yell County 18 May 2013. *Photograph by LaDonna Nichols.*

A first well-documented record for well-covered Grand Isle, Jefferson Parish, and one of few for anywhere in southeastern Louisiana beyond the Baton Rouge area, this adult male Great-tailed Grackle was present there 13-21 (here 13) April 2013. *Photograph by Kimberly Lanka.*

Although now widespread in the Region, a singing male House Finch in the canopy of Live Oak forest at Grand Isle 20 Apr (SWC et al.) was certainly a local oddity. A **White-winged Crossbill** attending a feeder in Little Rock, *Pulaski* 20 Apr (ph. Charles Anderson) would be the eighth record for the state and the first since 1994. Just the second for *Pulaski*, a Common Redpoll was enjoyed by many observers at Little Rock 30 Jan–2 Mar (ph. Lyndal York, m.ob.), and another was reported coming to a feeder at Ninestone Land Trust, *Carroll* 14-15 Mar (Judith Ann Griffith & Don Matt); there are fewer than two-dozen Arkansas records for the species. Late Pine Siskins were noted at Cotile Lake through 5 May, with an isolated appearance there 29 May (JVH), and at Folsom, *St. Tammany* through 6 May, with an isolated appearance there 15 May (Janine Robin).

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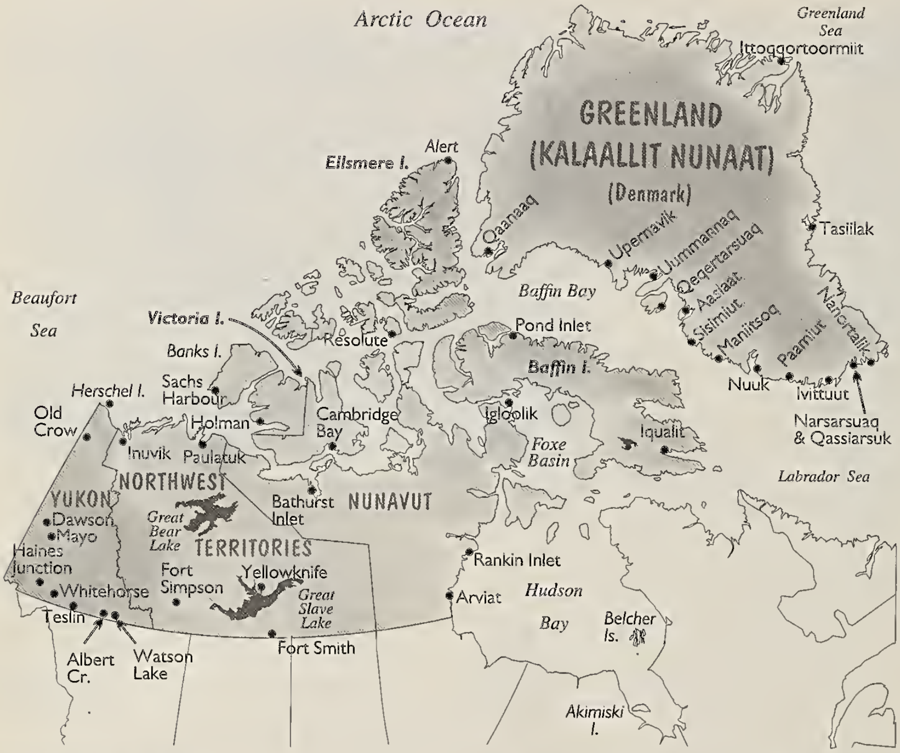
Northern Canada & Greenland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(Denmark)
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Nanortalik
Tasiilak
Nuuk
Ivittuut
Narsarsuaq & Qassiarsuk
Baffin Bay
Pond Inlet
Baffin I.
Igloolik
Foxe Basin
Iqualit
Labrador Sea
Beaufort Sea
Victoria I.
Banks I.
Resolute
Sachs Harbour
Herschel I.
Old Crow
Holman
Cambridge Bay
Inuvik
Paulatuk
NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES
YUKON
Dawson
Mayo
Haines Junction
Whitehorse
Teslin
Great Bear Lake
Bathurst Inlet
NUNAVUT
Fort Simpson
Yellowknife
Great Slave Lake
Fort Smith
Albert Cr.
Watson Lake
Rankin Inlet
Arviat
Hudson Bay
Belcher Is.
Akimiski I.

Cameron D. Eckert

Deep winter snow and unsettled weather produced harsh conditions and some dramatic fallouts across the Yukon. The incredible numbers of American Golden-Plovers, Pectoral Sandpipers, Long-billed Dowitchers, and Lapland Longspurs were reminiscent of the legendary spring of 1992. Unfortunately, it was a short-lived migration for the many birds that succumbed to the elements. The phenomenon was somewhat geographically limited: similar fallouts were observed in interior Alaska but not in Northwest Territories or Nunavut. As usual in spring, a few southern rarities across the Region provided seasonal surprises.

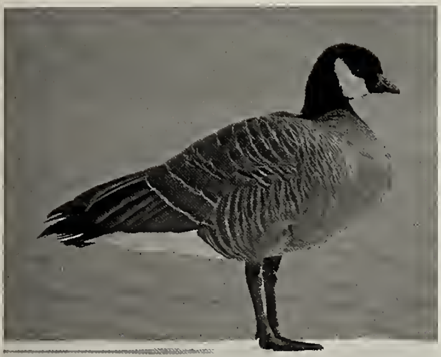
WATERFOWL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Greater White-fronted Geese put on a good show this spring; a record-early migrant was at Watson Lake, se. Yukon 28 Mar (ph. SD); a much-admired and fairly tame flock of up to 74 spent two weeks at Whitehorse, s. Yukon in early May (m.ob.); and 200 were at Fort Simpson, NT 17 May (DB). Snow Goose reports included at least 16 at Nisutlin Bay, s. Yukon 17 May (MC), 100 at Uqsuriraluk, Nunavut 19 May (BZ), and 55 at Ijjujuarjuk, Nunavut 18 May (BZ). Two Ross's Geese, casual in s. Yukon, were at Lake Laberge 14-17 May (ph. JJ; ph. CE, SVD). An unprecedented incursion of migrant Cackling Geese was observed across s. Yukon and extending into s.-cen. Alaska; for example, a total of 467 (all *minima*) and just 4 Canada Geese were counted between Beaver Creek and Whitehorse 7 May (ph. CE, PS); and up to 150 Cacklings (all *minima*) were at Lake Laberge, s. Yukon 10-15 May (CE, SVD; JJ). The overwhelming majority of Cackling Geese seen in the Yukon are of the subspecies *minima*, so a non-*minima* Cackling in Whitehorse 29 Apr (ph. CE) was of interest, though it was not identifiable to subspecies (possibly either *taverneri* or *hutchinsii*). A sizeable flock, 700 Canada Geese were at Fort Simpson, NT 7 May (DT). M'Clintock Bay on Marsh Lake, s. Yukon is one of the Region's most important migratory waterbird habitats; counts of 1368 American Wigeons and 623 Mallards were recorded there 11 May; and 817 Green-winged Teal were noted 16 May (JH). About 300 Northern Pintails visited the Whitehorse sewage ponds, s. Yukon 7 May (JH, DY). A male Blue-winged Teal × Northern Shoveler hybrid was an eye-catcher at Judas Creek, s. Yukon 29 May (CE). A flock of 50 King Eiders was at Herschel Island, n. Yukon 30 Apr (LJM, RJ), and 30 Common Eiders were at Sauniktalik, Nunavut 8 May (BZ). A small flock of 10 Ruddy Ducks was seen on the Yukon River at Burma Rd., s. Yukon 7 May (AP). A scan of the snow-covered landscape at Ittikluk, Nunavut yielded 15 Rock Ptarmigan 19 May (BZ).

Pacific Loon migration was in full swing at Fort Simpson, NT 13 May, with a count of 220 there (DB). Horned Grebe populations have declined in recent years, so flocks of 220 on the Yukon River, s. Yukon 8 May (BD, CE), 710 at M'Clintock Bay, s. Yukon 9 May (JJ), and 175 at Tagish, s. Yukon 10 May (JJ, SVD) were noteworthy. Fort Smith, NT is a reliable location for American White Pelican; 30 were there 29 May (DB). Yellow-billed Loon is a very rare but regular s. Yukon spring migrant; up to 2 were at Watson Lake 26-29 May (JAB, JJ), and one was at Marsh Lake 28 May (BD, ph. CE). Great Blue Heron is a rare in the Region; one was at Fort Simpson, NT 23 May (DT). A nicely documented American Bittern, casual in Northwest Territories, was at Hay River 30 May (ph. GV). Swainson's Hawk is a scarce s. Yukon migrant, with just a few seen annually en route to breeding grounds; 3 singles were at Lewes Marsh and Tagish 4 Apr–3 May (JJ), 2 at Johnson's Crossing 8 May (JJ), and one at Lake Laberge 15 May (ph. CE, SVD). Sandhill Crane reports included 100 at Nahanni N.P., NT 16 May (DT) and 35 at Ittikluk, Nunavut 19 May (BZ). Two Whooping Cranes were at Fox Hole Lakes, NT 31 May (TH, PP).

A fallout of American Golden-Plovers in the Yukon Southern Lakes area produced a record-high total count of 2025 on 19-21 May (CE, PS; BD; SVD); the count of 95 at Watson Lake 22 May (JJ) was high for se. Yukon. A total of 31 Solitary Sandpipers was tallied between Haines Junction and Kluane Lake, sw. Yukon 13 May (LD, NH). A fallout of shorebirds at Nares Lake, Yukon 19 May included 600 American Golden-Plovers, 120 Semipalmated Plovers, 100 Lesser Yellowlegs, 7000 Pectoral Sandpipers, and 300 Long-billed Dowitchers (CE, PS); the fallout continued at Judas Creek, s. Yukon 22 May, with

A *minima* Cackling Goose at Haines Junction, 7 May 2013. Note the bold white edges to the wing coverts and slight white neck band. The Cackling Goose in the background (to the right) shows how dark-breasted this subspecies can appear. *Photograph by Cameron Eckert.*

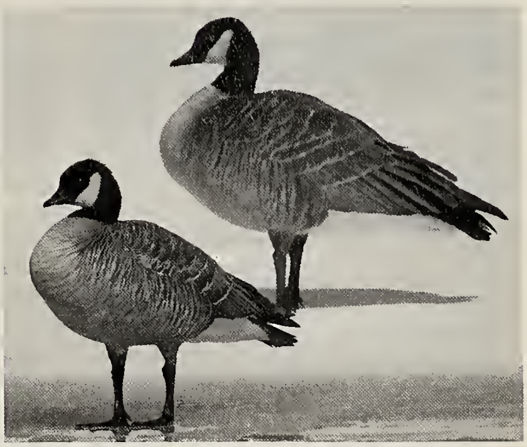


Southern Yukon saw an unprecedented incursion of Cackling Geese in spring 2013. The vast majority were of the expected subspecies, *minima*, which shows a small stubby bill, a very dark breast that at times seems to have a purplish sheen, and bold whitish edges on the wing coverts. This *minima* Cackling Goose (with a few flecks of blood on its cheek patch and sides) was photographed at Tagish, Yukon 30 April. *Photograph by Cameron Eckert.*

1200 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 750 Pectoral Sandpipers, and 750 Long-billed Dowitchers (CE, JH). Meanwhile, at Lake Laberge, s. Yukon two flocks totalling 1700 Long-billed Dowitchers were recorded 20 May (BD, CE). Rare s. Yukon shorebirds included a well-documented Willet at Watson Lake 31 May–1 Jun (ph. JJ; ph. SD; CE, TMK), a male Ruddy Turnstone at the Takhini Valley 20 May (CE), a White-rumped Sandpiper at Watson Lake 22 May (JJ), 3 White-rumped Sandpipers at Judas Creek 26 May (ph. CE), 3 Stilt Sandpipers at Judas Creek 22 May (ph. CE; JH), a Stilt Sandpiper at Watson Lake, se. Yukon 27 May (JAB, JJ), a Red Knot at Squanga Lake 26 May (ph. RaM), and 2 Red Knots at Judas Creek 27-28 May (ph. CE; BD). Knowledge of shorebird migration in Northwest Territories is patchy, and any observation can help fill gaps. Noteworthy reports this season included 27 American Golden-Plovers at Hay River 28 May (ph. GV); up to 7 Upland Sandpipers at Fort Simpson 20 May (DT; DB); 3 Whimbrels at Fort Simpson 23 May (DT); 50 Least Sandpipers at Range Lake, Yellowknife 21-22 May (RH); 1-2 White-rumped Sandpipers at Hay River 28 & 31 May (ph. GV; TH, PP); 9 Stilt Sandpipers at Range Lake 23 May (RH); and 5 Stilt Sandpipers at Hay River 31 May (TH, PP).

GULLS THROUGH FINCHES

Ten Franklin's Gulls were at Fort Simpson, NT 26 May (DT); and 2, w. of their range, were at Watson Lake, se. Yukon 26 May (ph. JJ). Bonaparte's Gull migration in s. Yukon can produce impressive numbers: 1900 were at M'Clintock Bay 14 May (JJ), and 300 were at Lake Laberge 15 May (CE, SVD). Ring-billed Gull is common across s. Northwest Territories, but becomes quite rare farther west. In Northwest Territories, 50 were at Fort Simpson 9 May (DB) and 60 at Frame Lake, NT 28 May (RH), but 2 ads. were the first ever for Dawson, cen. Yukon 13-14 May (ph. CE). A count of 420 Herring Gulls came from Jackfish Lake, NT 7 May (RH); 500 Herring and 6 Glaucous Gulls were at Rankin Inlet, Nunavut 17 May (BZ). Eleven Thayer's Gulls, the first of the season, were at Arctic Bay, Nunavut 26 May (CK, TK). Two Glaucous Gulls, rare in cen. Yukon, were at Dawson 14 May (ph. CE), while 87 were on the sea ice below King George Mountain, Nunavut 16 May (CK) and 327 at Arctic Bay, Nunavut 26 May (CK, TK). Two Caspian Terns were at Yellowknife, NT 19 May (VSG); nw. of the species' range, 2 were at Marsh Lake, s. Yukon 28 May (BD, ph. CE). Twenty Common Terns, at the edge of their range, were at Fort Simpson, NT 26 May (DT). The timing of Black Tern migration was indicated by a single at Fort Simpson, NT 24 May (DT) and 7 the next day at Watson Lake, se. Yukon (JAB, JJ), just 30 km w. of the nearest nesting colony. Parasitic Jaeger is a rare inland migrant in spring; 3 were at Fort Simpson, NT 24 May (DT).



This Cackling Goose at Whitehorse, Yukon 29 April 2013 shows a crisp demarcation between its black neck and relatively pale gray-brown chest. It would appear to be either *taverneri* or *hutchinsii*, though the taxonomic relationship between those subspecies remains poorly understood. *Photograph by Cameron Eckert.*

Eurasian Collared-Dove is now fairly common in the Yukon, though it has not yet been recorded in Northwest Territories or Nunavut. One of the season's first was at Timberpoint, Teslin Lake, s. Yukon 27 May (ph. MC). When the island's rangers arrived 27 Apr, a Snowy Owl was present at Herschel Island, n. Yukon (LJM). A Short-eared Owl was at Dawson, cen. Yukon 14 May (GB, ph. CH). An especially cooperative Boreal Owl perched in a yard in downtown Whitehorse, s. Yukon 20-21 Mar (HG, ph. CE). Red-breasted Sapsucker is a rare spring overshoot to s. Yukon; one was found freshly dead on the Carcross Rd. 27 Mar (TO), and singles were at Whitehorse 11 Apr (TL) and Haines Junction 11-12 Apr (ph. MCh). An intergrade Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted × Red-shafted) was at Teslin, s. Yukon 28 May (ph. MC).

A massive foraging flock of **3500** Tree Swallows was at Jackfish Bay, Lake Laberge, s. Yukon 20 May (CE, BD). Swallow migration at Haines Junction, sw. Yukon featured flocks of 150 Tree Swallows 18 May and 200 Violet-green Swallows 16 May (RJ). Ten Barn Swallows were at Yellowknife, NT 19 May (VSG), and 2 at Rankin Inlet, Nunavut 29 May (BZ) were well n. of their range. The Fox Hole Lakes area w. of Fort Smith, NT produced 5 Marsh Wrens and 2 Le Conte's Sparrows 30 May (DB) and a Nelson's Sparrow there 31 May (TH, PP). A snowstorm in Dawson, cen. Yukon 19 May produced a small fallout, including 3 Northern Wheatears and 5 Gray-cheeked Thrushes (GB, ph. CH). A flock of 15 Mountain Bluebirds was seen at Wolf Creek 27 Apr (JH), and a male at the fringe of its range was seen near Moose Creek, cen. Yukon 9 Apr (JF). A **Gray Catbird**, casual in Northwest Territories, was at Fort Simpson 24 May (†DB). A drive from Dawson to Stewart Crossing, cen. Yukon recorded an incredible **8200** Lapland Longspurs 14 May (CE). Always a prize find during migration Smith's Longspur reports included 4 at Fort Simpson, NT 18 May (DB) and 2 there 24 May (DT); singles at Tagish, s. Yukon 21 May Tagish (CE) and Hay River, NT 23 May (ph. GV); and a high count of 65 at Watson Lake, se. Yukon 24 May (JJ). The first migrant Snow Buntings of the season at Rankin Inlet, Nunavut were 3 on 23 Apr (BZ). A bird walk around Fort Simpson, NT 24 May produced 4 Tennessee Warblers, 4 Magnolia Warblers, 2 Black-and-white Warblers, 5 American Redstarts, an Ovenbird, and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak (DT). A singing Connecticut Warbler was found at Fort Smith, NT 30-31 May (ph. TH, PP).

Five Western Tanagers were at Fort Simpson, NT 12 May (DB); and a male, w. of its range, was at Whitehorse 26 May (ph. RoM). Yellow-headed Blackbird is a rare but regular

This Willet at Watson Lake 31 May (here) through 1 June 2013 was the first to be seen in the Yukon in nearly 25 years. *Photograph by Jukka Jantunen.*

wanderer to the Yukon and Northwest Territories. A male was found at Little Atlin Lake, s. Yukon 18-19 May (ph. KG, SG; CE, PS, SVD), a female at Fort Simpson 23-24 May (DB; DT), and another female at Watson Lake, se. Yukon 18-27 May (ph. SD; JJ). A Brewer's Blackbird, casual in s. Yukon, was at Watson Lake 19 May (JJ). Common Grackles are reasonably common across s. Northwest Territories, e.g., 9 at Yellowknife 11 May (BF). A Western Meadowlark provided a well-documented record for the Yukon at Watson Lake 24 May (ph. JJ).

Two Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches were at Dawson 10 Apr (PB); an impressive flock of 250 (80% *littoralis*, 20% *tephrocotis*) was at Carcross, s. Yukon 27-28 Apr (BD, CE, PS); and a snow storm in Dawson produced 3 on 19 May (GB, CH) and 2 there 20 May (AB). **Lesser Goldfinch** might have been called a "once-in-a-lifetime" bird in the Yukon in 2006, when the first record was made. But another turned up at Whitehorse this season, a green-backed imm. male present 27 May (ph. CE, RoM, HG) through 14 Jun (ph. RoM; BS). A flyover **American Goldfinch** was noted at Hays River, NT 31 May (TH, PP). Eight Evening Grosbeaks at Fort Simpson, NT 24 Mar (DT) provided the only report of the season.

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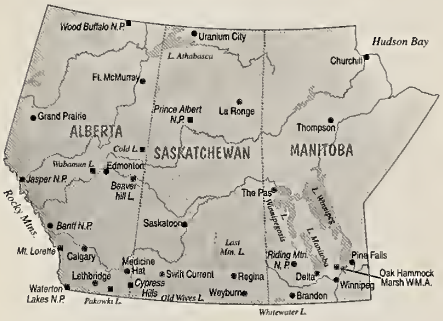
Prairie Provinces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Uranium City
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Cold L.
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Edmonton
Jasper N.P.
Beaverhill L.
The Pas
L. Winnipeg
L. Winnipegosis
Rocky Mtns.
Banff N.P.
Saskatoon
Last Mtn. L.
L. Manitoba
Mt. Lorette
Calgary
Medicine Hat
Riding Mtn. N.P.
Pine Falls
Swift Current
Regina
Delta
Oak Hammock Marsh W.M.A.
Lethbridge
Cypress Hills
Winnipeg
Waterton Lakes N.P.
Pakowki L.
Old Wives L.
Weyburn
Brandon
Whitewater L.

Rudolf F. Koes
Peter Taylor

March and April were essentially a continuation of winter, with snow remaining on the ground into May in places. While May saw a few warming spells, particularly in Alberta, more snow fell to the east, followed by a few major rain storms late in the month. The only upside to the continued cold was that it slowed the snowmelt to such an extent that expected flooding did not materialize.

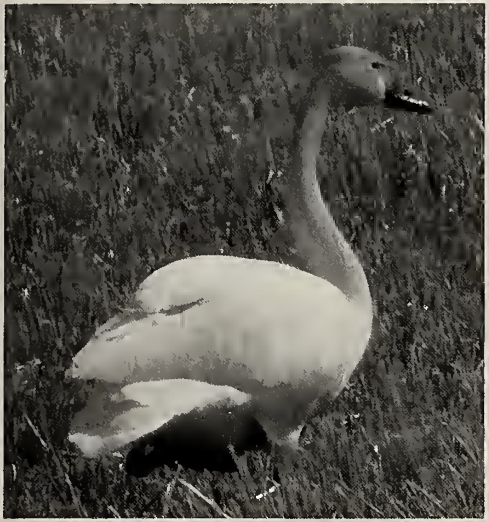
Wintering birds, particularly owls, lingered in the south and returned to breeding areas weeks late. Nocturnal owl surveys in Manitoba, as per tradition held in early to mid-April, turned up virtually no birds, and even by late April, owls were scarce on territories. Migration of waterbirds, with a few notable exceptions, was weeks late; diurnal raptors and passerines were likewise delayed, with late waves of warblers and flycatchers still passing well into June.

GEESE THROUGH IBISES

A flock of 105 Ross's Geese, with one Snow Goose × Ross's Goose hybrid, near Blackie, AB 21 Apr was notable (TK), as was a **Bewick's Swan** near Hussar, AB 16 Apr (TK). Exceptionally early, given the prolonged wintry conditions, were a Gadwall at Winnipeg, MB 28 Mar (GB), an American Wigeon at McArthur Falls, MB 29 Mar (PT), Northern Shovelers at Estevan, SK (KH) and Winnipeg (GB) 27 Mar, and 2 Green-winged Teal at Winnipeg 28 Mar (GB). A Eurasian Teal was noted near Shepard, AB 11 Apr (TK, ph.). A Common Goldeneye × Barrow's Goldeneye hybrid was noteworthy at Saskatoon, SK 28 Apr (SM). Unusually large concentrations of Red-breasted Mergansers totaled 1000 at Hecla P.P., MB (hereafter Hecla) (AM, LC, SO, NB) and "hundreds" at McClelland Lake, AB (B&SM), both 18 May.

Unprecedented numbers of Red-throated Loons were reported. One was noted along the Hecla causeway 12-13 May (JW, BS), then 140 were tallied on Lake Winnipeg, off the e. shore of Hecla Island 14 May (BS), only to be topped by 200 in the same general area 15 May (J&VR, LG), while 2 were found at Natalie Lake, MB on the latter date (PT). In Alberta, 21 were at Barrier Lake 25 May (AD, TA). Up to 5 Eared Grebes at Winnipeg 30 Mar–7 Apr were record early (GB, m.ob.); elsewhere, one was also early at Estevan 6 Apr (KH). A Great Egret at Saskatoon 9 May (IC) and single Snowy Egrets at Saskatoon 18 May (RW) and at Belle Plaine,

A flock of 105 Ross's Geese stopped near Blackie, Alberta 21 April 2013. Accompanying the flock were one or two Snow Goose × Ross's Goose hybrids. *Photograph by Terry Korolyk.*



This swan near Hussar, Alberta 16 April 2013 was identified as a Bewick's Swan on the basis of the extensive yellow in the bill. There have been several reports of this subspecies in southern Alberta in recent years, but elsewhere in the Prairie Provinces region it remains extremely rare or absent. *Photograph by Terry Korolyk.*

SA White-faced Ibis appeared across s. Manitoba, well beyond their limited breeding range, in an unprecedented movement 18-26 Apr (m.ob.). Up to 7 lingered at Powerview 18-26 Apr, becoming unlikely lawn ornaments, contrasting nicely with the slowly melting snow banks, where the melt-water furnished much-needed invertebrate prey. During the same period, singles were noted at Rivers, Minnedosa, and Rapid City, and 2 were near Morden.

SK 20 May (KC) drew attention. There were several reports of the above two species, plus Cattle Egrets, in Manitoba.

EAGLES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

The Pembina Valley (Windygates), MB hawkwatch continued into May, much later than normal, as the migration was so much delayed. The peak tally of Bald Eagles there was 205 on 13 May, fully a month and a half later than normal. Red-tailed Hawks peaked there at 1298 on 23 Apr and 1376 on 25 Apr, about three weeks late (AS, PG, m.ob.); at Estevan, about 300 km to the w., hundreds were noted 6 Apr (KH). Raptor rarities included a Red-shouldered Hawk at St. Adolphe, MB 2 Apr (RPs, AC, m.ob.) and a Ferruginous Hawk there 10 Apr (AC et al.).

Seven White-faced Ibis frequented Powerview, Manitoba from 18-26 (here 18) April 2013. Not only were these birds out of range, they were also remarkably early, part of a widespread early flight across the northern Great Plains and western Great Lakes regions. *Photograph by Linda Desautels.*

The shorebird migration drew little comment, with most birds rushing through during a brief period in late May. A tally of up to 700 Black-bellied Plovers near Strathmere, AB was high (RL, VH, m.ob.). Over a five-day period, 20-24 Apr, a Black-necked Stilt, an American Avocet, and a Marbled Godwit fed at aeration holes in the ice of Wascana Lake, Regina. Elsewhere in Saskatchewan, unprecedented numbers of Black-necked Stilts were found, with 30+ reported at various locations 4-16 May. A **Purple Sandpiper** photographed at Inglewood Bird Sanctuary along the Bow River at Calgary, AB 9-10 May was a first for Alberta (EM, m.ob., ph.).

Most noteworthy of the gulls reported were 51 Sabine's Gulls at Frank Lake, AB 24 May (J&MM, JP), 71+ Sabine's Gulls at Gregoire Lake near Fort McMurray, AB 31 May (IP), 5 easterly California Gulls near Meadows, MB 20 Apr (KG), a Kumlien's Iceland Gull at Regina 1 May (BL, DS), different single Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Calgary 31 Mar (J&MM) and 8 Apr (BSt), and up to 2 Lesser Black-backeds at Regina 15-30 Apr (BL, RD, DS). A first-cycle **Glaucous-winged Gull × Herring Gull** hybrid was identified at Calgary 26 Apr (TK). Lone, stray migrant Arctic Terns were at Winnipeg 11 May (BM), at Hecla 13 & 15 May (m.ob.), and near Cremona, AB 26 May (BE, RWo). Seventeen Parasitic Jaegers at Frank Lake 28 May (RC) likely represented the largest number ever seen in one day in the s. part of the Prairie Provinces region.

Many Great Gray Owls lingered in winter hunting areas in marginal farmland in se. Manitoba until the crusty snow finally thawed in late Apr. A roost chimney at Dauphin, MB attracted 121 Chimney Swifts 31 May (*fide* FM). Not only is this the largest number of swifts recorded in the province at one time, it is also at the extreme nw. edge of the species' range. A female **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was identified at Mountain View, AB 17 May (*fide* NW); there are about 15 previous Alberta records, but only three are fully documented. Peregrine Falcons were counted in much higher numbers than usual at Windygates hawkwatch, with tallies of 22 on 25 Apr, 46 on 26 Apr, and 45 on 27 Apr (AS, m.ob.).

Representing about the eighth record for Alberta, this male Eurasian Teal was near Shepard on 11 April 2013. Remarkably, there are no records of this subspecies for either Saskatchewan or Manitoba. *Photograph by Terry Korolyk.*

PASSERINES

An exceptionally late Northern Shrike at Hecla 15 May (BS, J&VR, LG) capped a protracted, tardy migration for this species. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** at Beaver Mines in sw. Alberta 27 May (PS) furnished the province's second record. An out-of-range Clark's Nutcracker found at Calgary 3 May (RP) lingered there a few days. Although most swallows arrived late, 8 Northern Rough-winged Swallows at Calgary 1 Apr (TK) were early. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at FortWhyte Alive, Winnipeg 26-27 May was about the seventh for Manitoba (AM, CC, ph.). A Chestnut-backed Chickadee at Priddis, AB 1 Apr (PD) was unusual far e. of the Rocky Mountains.

An Eastern Bluebird near Medicine Hat,

Rare at any time of year in Alberta, this Red-bellied Woodpecker at Etzikom (here 19 March 2013) made the third documented record for the province. Apparently, it had first appeared there in November 2012. *Photograph by Milt Spitzer.*

AB 13 May (PH) was far w. of typical range, while a concentration of 200+ Mountain Bluebirds in one Calgary residential area 16 Apr (TK) was part of an exceptional invasion of the city. Wintering Townsend's Solitaires lingered at Regina until 30 Apr (BL) and at Saskatoon until 3 May (SS). Bohemian Waxwing flocks of 2300 at Saskatoon 15 Mar (GC), 4000 at Calgary 24 Mar (GY), and 1000 at Winnipeg 8 Apr (RK) were found; smaller parties remained in s. Saskatchewan and s. Manitoba until late Apr and early May (m.ob.), several weeks past their usual departure time.

The warbler migration drew little comment. The most unexpected reports involved a Golden-winged Warbler at Roche Percee, SK 25 May (TH, PL) and single Black-throated Blue Warblers at Saskatoon 8 May (BM) and at La Barrière Park near Winnipeg 29 May (JWh, WC, NM). Three Summer Tanager reports came from the Winnipeg area 13-29 May (m.ob.). In Manitoba, extralimital Lark Sparrows were at Elma, Pinawa, and Gimli 6-12 May (RK, RZ, DM). A Savannah Sparrow at Calgary 26 Mar was remarkably early (EP). Also of note were a Lazuli Bunting at Holland, MB 19 May (CS) and an early Indigo Bunting at Gimli, MB 30 Apr (DM).

A female **Great-tailed Grackle** photographed at Quesnel Lake 18 May (AT, CA, m.ob.) provided a long-awaited first for Manitoba. A one-day wonder found during breeding bird atlas training, it could not be relocated. A female **Brambling** at Pincher Creek, AB 3-11 Apr (CVR, m.ob., ph.) was the fourth for the province. Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches were unusually common in sw. Alberta early in spring. Redpolls lingered late in the south; a Common Redpoll was at Regina 20 May (KM). Crossbill numbers dwindled in s. Manitoba but remained strong in the Calgary and Edmonton areas.

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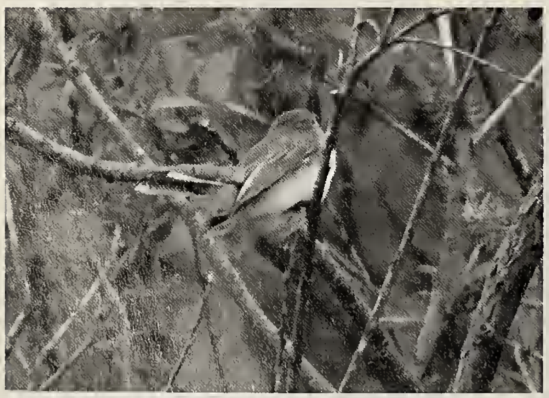
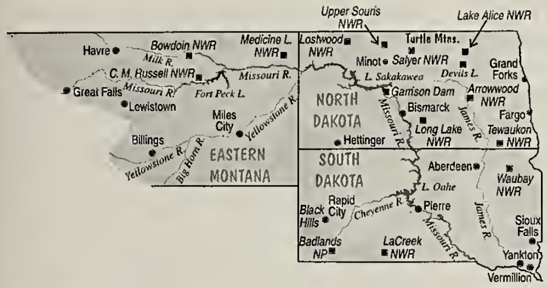
Great-tailed Grackle was finally added to the Manitoba list when this female made a brief visit to Quesnel Lake on 18 May 2013. *Photograph by Christian Artuso.*



Found on 26 May 2013 at FortWhyte Alive, Winnipeg, and photographed the next day (here), this Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was about the seventh ever recorded in Manitoba. *Photograph by Charlotte Caron.*

This Brambling, the fourth for Alberta, was present near Pincher Creek 3-17 (here date unknown) April 2013. *Photograph by Raymond Toal.*

Northern Great Plains



Ron Martin

The season was another in a string of unusual springs, particularly in North Dakota and eastern Montana. Heavy snow cover lingered to late April in the northern half of North Dakota, and temperatures were well below average across the Region. A good portion of the winter snow fell in March and April. At Bismarck, North Dakota, March was 7° F below average, and April was 9° below average. Bismarck recorded 19 cm (7.37 inches) of rain in May, most of it in the last half of the month. It was another very wet spring across the Region.

Many of the usual April migrants did not arrive in numbers until late in the month, many spilling over into May in unusual numbers. The late May rains and cool weather grounded migrants everywhere, and many eastern migrants were pushed westward by low pressure and easterly winds.

Waterfowl peaks were poor, and raptors were weeks late. High water levels and cool temperatures made for a poor shorebird migration. Winter finches lingered well into May. Grassland birds were scarce, as conditions were well behind average when they arrived. The warbler migration was spectacular, with massive fallouts in the Dakotas. Neotropical migrants were still going strong at the end of the period.

WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

No Snow Geese were noted in a pure flock of 300 Ross's Geese in *McIntosh*, ND 27 Apr (CDE). Three Trumpeter Swan reports in North Dakota included two westerly sightings. A single was in *McHenry* 21 Apr (REM) and 4 in *Burleigh* 12-16 May (CAC). The fifth record for South Dakota, a **Eurasian Wigeon** was in *Harding* 11-17 May (CEM, KM). A Long-tailed Duck was late and provided a first county record in *Williams*, ND 2 May (NK). The only Barrow's Goldeneye reported was a single 1 Mar in *Gregory*, SD (RM).

Neotropic Cormorants continue to turn up in South Dakota, with singles in *Brule* 5 May (RSL) and *Brown* 27 May (BJU) providing the state's fourteenth and fifteenth records. A Great Egret was far w. in *Dunn*, ND 25 May (NDBS). Also unusually far w. was a Cattle Egret at *Medora*, ND 2 May (JLK). Casual in *Ward*, ND, 14 Cattle Egrets were found 26 May (REM). Single Glossy Ibis were at Dickey 19 May (REM, CDE) and at Burleigh 27 May–1 Jun (HCT), providing eleventh and twelfth records for North Dakota. Several reports of migrant White-faced Ibis were recorded for the Red River valley of North Dakota. Usually a casual species in this area, it is likely these migrants were pushed eastward due to snow cover farther west. The rapid increase in Turkey Vulture numbers continues in the Region; up to 23 were roosting at Malta, MT this spring (SJD).

New spring peaks for North Dakota, 40 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 27 Cooper's Hawks passed the Baker Bridge Hawkwatch in *Ward* 26 Apr (REM, SDL). The only Red-shouldered Hawk report was of a single at Fargo 6 Apr (DPW). Almost a month late, a peak of 527 Red-tailed Hawks passed the Baker Bridge Hawkwatch 26 Apr (REM, SDL). An American Avocet was early 14 Mar in *Charles Mix*, SD (KP, RM). Also in *Charles Mix*, a Spotted Sandpiper was early 5 Apr (RM). Rare in Montana, a Hudsonian Godwit was at Bowdoin N.W.R. 26 May (SJD). Casual in w. North Dakota, a Whimbrel was in *Golden Valley* 24 May (CDE).

Rare in spring, Iceland Gulls were seen in *Hughes*, SD 4 Apr (RDO, DB) and at Bismarck, ND 20 Apr (CDE). The ninth report for South Dakota, a **Great Black-backed Gull** was at Pierre 10-23 Apr (SS, RDO). The eleventh report for South Dakota, a White-winged Dove was in *Minnehaha* 22 Apr (DC). Casual in North Dakota, a Northern Hawk Owl was in *Pembina* 2 Mar (DOL). After a single Boreal Owl report for North Dakota in Feb, 4 more were recorded in Mar: one photographed in *Wells* 16 Mar (LDJ), a window-killed bird at Fargo 17 Mar (MCB, EB), another at Fargo 18 Mar (DWR), and an injured bird found at Minot in mid-Mar and taken to Bismarck for rehabilitation and later released in n. Minnesota. The is the largest number of reports for this species in North Dakota in the modern era. Likely nesters, 3 Northern Saw-whet Owls were singing in *Dunn*, ND 24 May (NDBS).

Accidental in *Burleigh*, ND, a Common Poorwill was found at Bismarck 15 May (CDE). Well w. of the species' normal range, an Eastern Whip-poor-will was a county first in *Pierce*, ND 23 May (REM). The sixteenth report for North Dakota, 2 Lewis's Woodpeckers were in *Burleigh* 15-22 May (ET, HCT); the same feeder also hosted Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers. Casual in w. South Dakota, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was in *Harding* 26 May (DB). The second latest spring record for North Dakota, a Gyrfalcon was in *Cass* 2 May (PBe). A new spring high count for North Dakota, 7 Peregrine Falcons went over the Baker Bridge Hawkwatch in *Ward* 26 Apr (REM, SDL).

PASSERINES

A Western Wood-Pewee was e. of normal range in *Edmonds*, SD 22 May (MO). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was unusually far w. at Dickinson, ND 26 May (JPL). Casual in Montana, an Eastern Phoebe was at Miles City 24 May (EH). Providing about the eighteenth report for South Dakota, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was in *Dewey* 17-19 May (ND). Late Northern Shrikes were in *Union*, SD 20 Apr (DS) and *McCone*, MT 18 May (SJD). Casual in spring in South Dakota, a White-eyed Vireo was in *Brown* 13 May (GO). Also in South Dakota, a Philadelphia Vireo was w. of normal range in *Harding* 25 May (CEM).

A Clark's Nutcracker was seen building a nest in *Custer*, SD 3 Mar (ND); there are few confirmed nest records for the state. Common Ravens continue to increase across the Region. A single was in *Harding*, SD 24 May (DB); others were in *Valley*, MT 26 May and near Bowdoin N.W.R., MT 26 May (SJD). A lone Common Raven at Jamestown, ND 20 Apr was s. of usual range (LDI). A Rock Wren in *Barnes* 17 May (BJA) provided a rare record for that e. North Dakota county. Six Wood Thrush reports for North Dakota 13-30 May made an unusually high total for spring. Very rare migrants in South Dakota, McCown's Longspurs were in *Butte* and *Harding* 28 Apr (ND, CEM, DB). The latest report for South Dakota this season, a Snow Bunting was in *Grant* 22 Apr (BP).

A very rare migrant in North Dakota, Blue-winged Warblers were at J. Clark Salyer N.W.R. 23 May (GAE) and Fargo 26-27 May (DWR); the only South Dakota report was from *Day* 26 May (BJU). An amazing peak of 6 Golden-winged Warblers was noted at Valley City, ND 22 May (BJA). Rare in w. South Dakota, Golden-winged Warblers were in *Pennington* 22 May (OCW) and in *Harding* 26 May (CEM). Another rare migrant in South Dakota, a Prothonotory Warbler was in *Union* 17 May (KM). A new high count for North Dakota, 750 Tennessee Warblers were in *Dickey* and *LaMoure* 19 May (REM, CDE). Connecticut Warblers made a strong showing, with more than 23 reports from the Dakotas. Both casual in North Dakota, a MacGillivray's Warbler was in *Billings* 24 May (REM, CDE), and a Hooded Warbler was in *Grand Forks* 11 May (SJA, DOL). It was one of the best migrations in recent memory for Cape May Warbler in North Dakota, with a great peak of 17 feeding on the streets of Bismarck 21 May (HCT). Seventeen reports of Northern Parula for the Dakotas was astounding; casual in *Burleigh*, ND, singles were at Bismarck 21 & 22 May (HCT, REM) and at

Fort Peck, MT 24 May (SJD), where also casual. Another new high count for North Dakota, 275 Blackpoll Warblers were feeding on American Elm droppings on the streets of Bismarck 22 May (REM, HCT). Rare migrants in the Region, Pine Warblers were in *McIntosh*, ND 18 May (CDE) and *Edmunds*, SD 24 May (JDW). The ninth report for North Dakota, a **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at Valley City 22 May (BJA). Unusually far w., a Black-throated Green Warbler was at Dickinson 26 May (JPL). Casual in South Dakota, a Townsend's Warbler was in *Stanley* 24 May (RDO).

Three Spotted Towhee × Eastern Towhee hybrids were reported in North Dakota 13-25 May (PBE, DOL, NDBS). Very few Le Conte's Sparrows were reported this spring, perhaps due to grassland conditions in early May. A new high count for North Dakota, **211** Fox Sparrows were in *Grand Forks* 30 Apr (DOL); Lambeth also noted 85 Fox Sparrows in his Grand Forks yard 1 May. About the eleventh report for North Dakota, a White-winged Junco was in *Steele* 24 Mar (REM, CDE, ph.). A rare migrant in the Region, Summer Tanagers were in *Morton*, ND 21-26 May (2 birds; CS), *Barnes*, ND 28 May–2 Jun (*fide* JML), and *Lake*, SD 23 May (JSP). Scarlet Tanager reports were well above average in North Dakota. The only Western Tanager reported in North Dakota was from *McIntosh* 21 May (REM); in e. South Dakota, one was in *Lake* 23 May (JSP). A high count of 69 Baltimore Orioles camme from *Dickey* and *LaMoure*, ND 19 May (CDE).

Crossbills from the winter invasion remained in some areas into May, but apparently little nesting occurred in the Region. The second-highest count for spring in North Dakota, and very late, 5000 Common Redpolls were in *McLean* 20 Apr (REM). Late Common Redpolls were noted in *Brown*, SD 12 May (BP) and in *Ward*, ND 23 May (JaK, TB). The latest Hoary Redpoll report was from Mandan, ND 20 Apr (HCT). Two Evening Grosbeak reports were unusual in Apr, with one in *Yankton*, SD 7 Apr (RND) and another in *McIntosh*, ND 13 Apr (REM).

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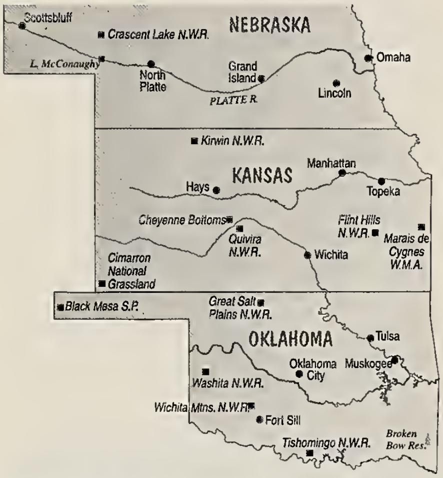
Southern Great Plains



Joseph A. Grzybowski
W. Ross Silcock

With some rain relief in spring, conditions slowly normalized this season, although numbers of some species, sparrows in particular, were still quite low, and Sprague's Pipits were difficult to find. Scoters, typically rare, were fewer than usual, as were rails and herons and bitterns, surely owing to recent drought conditions. Western Meadowlarks seemed to shift eastward in the southern part of the Region, with singing birds heard across central Oklahoma. The irruption of Common Redpolls continued into March in Nebraska, and Pine Siskins were locally common. Cool conditions over much of the season caused departure dates to lag behind the norm for species such as Hermit Thrush and Song Sparrow, and early arrivals were notably fewer than in recent warm spring seasons.

Abbreviations: Cheyenne Bottoms (Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., *Barton*, KS); Hefner (Lake Hefner, *Oklahoma*, OK); McConaughy (McConaughy Reservoir, *Keith*, NE); Quivira (Quivira N.W.R., *Stafford*, KS); Rainwater Basin (playa wetlands in s.-cen. and se. Nebraska); Red Slough (Red Slough W.M.A., *McCurtain*, OK).

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBISES

Beginning 13 Apr, a few Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were found away from Red Slough in *Love*, *Carter*, *Tulsa*, and *Oklahoma*, OK (*fide* JAG), with a report of 20+ in *Murray*, OK in late Apr (JaJ), and reports n. to Kansas of singles in *Douglas* 16 Apr (GP) and *Johnson* 16-25 Apr (NA). Lingering Greater White-fronted Geese included 9 in *Norton*, KS 11 May (BS), one in *Johnson*, KS 12 May (JOl), an injured bird in *Johnston*, OK 29 May (JRh, JMl), and three reports from the Nebraska Panhandle through 8 May (KD, AK). Also tardy were single Snow Geese in *Stevens*, KS 17 May (JC) and *Harper*, KS 27 May (ES), a Ross's Goose in *Norton*, KS 12 May (CM), a Cackling Goose there 11 May (BS), and another (injured) Cackling in *Jackson*, OK 19 May (VF, DG). Huge numbers of Snow Geese are now counted in cen. Nebraska; 1.5 million were estimated in *Harlan* 27 Mar (TJW), and one million were estimated in cen. Nebraska 8 Mar (CNK). The highest count of Ross's Geese was of 2000 in *Lancaster*, NE 20 Mar (LE). Up to 3 Trumpeter Swans lingered in *Tulsa*, OK through 2 Mar (JWA, JWo); one in *Neosho*, KS 10 May (AB, ph.) was very late. Tundra Swan is a rare spring migrant, almost always noted in Mar; one was in *Douglas*, NE 4-6 Mar (JGr, JR), and 13 were in *Osage*, OK 7 Mar (JSi), with one still present 14 Mar (THo).

The 50 Wood Ducks in *Rooks* 16 Mar (JC, JVK) made a good count for w. Kansas. The male Mandarin Duck wintering in *Hall*, NE remained until 3 Mar (JLC). Noteworthy counts for the dates were the 110 Gadwalls 31 May and 120 American Wigeons 24 May at Quivira (MR). A male Gadwall × Mallard hybrid was in *Johnson*, KS 16 Mar (NV), and a male Cinnamon Teal × Blue-winged Teal was in *Riley*, KS 13 Apr (EMt). Twenty-thousand Northern Pintails were at Quivira 8 Mar (BJ). A Eurasian Wigeon was in *Clay*, NE 14 Mar (PD, ph.). No fewer than 27 easterly Cinnamon Teal were reported (*fide* WRS, JK, JAG), the easternmost a pair at Red Slough 26 Mar (DA). The only report of the now quite rare American Black Duck was of one in *Washington*, NE 8 Mar (PD); the only Mottled Duck was at Red Slough 3 Mar (DA). An excellent count of Green-winged

Teal was of 10,000 in *Coffey*, KS 20 Apr (NA, MG). Canvasbacks appear to be increasing in *Sedgwick*, KS (KG, PJ); a good tally of 156 came from *Butler*, KS 3 Mar (KG). A late Ring-necked Duck was in *Comanche*, OK 20 May (CW), and 5 were still at Quivira 24-25 May (JC, MR). Greater Scaup were uncommon in their usual migration periods in Oklahoma and Kansas; rather late were singles at Quivira 24 May (MR) and in *Douglas*, NE 26 May (JR). Scoters are rare in spring; only 3 were reported: a Surf Scoter in *Russell*, KS 6 Apr (MA, PHs), another one late in *Dixon*, NE 20 May (RM, CM, ph.), and a White-winged Scoter in *Tulsa*, OK 3 Mar (TM, JLe). A Barrow's Goldeneye noted earlier in *Scotts Bluff*, NE was re-found 1 Mar (KD); others were in *Douglas*, NE 2-15 Mar (female; JR, m.ob.) and *Osage*, KS 17 Mar (male; JM). A Long-tailed Duck was in *Tulsa*, OK 2 Mar (JWA, m.ob.), and 2 were in *Russell*, KS 6 Mar (DK). Among the tardy waterfowl were a female Bufflehead in *Comanche*, OK 31 May (JAG), a Common Goldeneye in *Russell*, KS 25 May (MR), a Common Merganser in *Riley*, KS into Jun (GW, *fide* JK), and a Red-breasted Merganser in *Douglas*, KS 22 May (GP).

Red-throated and Pacific Loons are Regional rarities away from a very local mecca, Lake Tenkiller in e. Oklahoma, where several of each were seen 2 Mar (DWo). Other Red-throateds included 2 at Hefner 2 Mar–23 Apr (JAG, PV) and one in *Douglas*, KS 17 Apr (JK). Single Pacific Loons were in *Riley*, KS 27 Apr–6 May (JRw, ph.), in *Phillips*, KS 11-12 May (*fide* JK), and in *Lancaster*, NE 7 Apr (LE). Three late Common Loons were at Tulsa 19 May (BC), 2 were in *Cleveland*, OK 24 May (TK), and one was in *Major*, OK 30 May (JRs, MF). A tardy Horned Grebe was in *Butler*, NE 28 May (JG, CNK). There were eight reports of easterly Western Grebes, 5 in Nebraska 16 Apr–26 May (*fide* WRS), one in *Douglas*, KS 24 Apr (GP), and 1-2 at Hefner 9 (JRs, MF) & 27 Apr (JAG). All Clark's Grebes reported were westerly, as expected: 3 in Kansas 29 Mar–12 May (*fide* JK), 3 in Nebraska 24 Apr–25 May (*fide* WRS), and one in *Beaver*, OK 15-23 Apr (JWo et al.; ET et al.).

Neotropic Cormorants were more numerous this season in Kansas, with 10+ birds at seven locations 11 Mar–8 May (*fide* JK); one in *Lancaster*, NE 31 Mar (DL, BP) represented an early spring date. A few Anhingas made it beyond Red Slough to *Tulsa*, OK 22 Apr (5; JWA) and *Rogers*, OK 23 Apr (one; KW). The only Least Bittern reported away from Red Slough was in *Russell*, KS 25 May (MR). Rare in w. Nebraska, single Great Egrets were in *Scotts Bluff* 11 May (AK) and *Lincoln* 6 May (VC). Northerly Little Blue Herons arrived 30 Apr (AF) and 8 May (PH) in *Saunders*, NE and on 28 May in *Pawnee*, NE (MR, ph.). Tricolored Herons wandered n. to *Sedgwick*, KS 12-14 Apr (BMc, TMc; ph.), *Douglas*, KS 12-13 May (WCT, CT), and *Oklahoma*, OK 17-28 May (BD, J&JW). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in *Dakota*, NE 21 Apr (*fide* WRS) was northerly. Odd Glossy Ibis reports included at least 3 birds in Kansas 22 Apr–20 May (*fide* JK) and one in *Clay*, NE 13 May (PD, ph.); a few Glossies breed at Salt Plains N.W.R., OK (*fide* GH). A Glossy Ibis × White-faced Ibis hybrid was at Quivira 28 Apr (ML, JL), with another in *Tulsa*, OK 30 Apr (JWA). The 49 White-faced Ibis in *Linn*, KS 28 Apr (SA, CHo) made a strong easterly tally.

VULTURES THROUGH TERNS

Black Vultures continue to extend their range northward and westward, with birds this season noted n. to *Linn*, KS 4 Apr (MM) and *Montgomery*, KS 4 May (AB). Ospreys have attempted nesting in the Nebraska Panhandle at seven sites so far but without success; most birds appear to be young and inexperienced (*fide* WRS). Mississippi Kites are abundant breeders in w. Kansas and Oklahoma, rarer eastward; this season, singles were in *Linn*, KS 20 Apr (MM, GP), *Dodge*, NE 17 & 23 May (GR), *Douglas*, KS 19 May (MA), and *Sarpy*, NE 21 May (CNK). Despite its success in recent years, Bald Eagle is still a rare breeder in w. Kansas; an ad. was tending a nest in *Finney* 27 Apr (SS). A Northern Goshawk was in *Madison*, NE 15 Mar (DH). Westerly reports of Broad-winged Hawk in Nebraska included singles in *Scotts Bluff* 11 May (RSg, AK, KD), *Frontier* 5 May (LR, RH), and *Harlan* 1 May (PJ). A Ferruginous Hawk was easterly in *Riley*, KS 30 Mar (DRi). A count of 28 Rough-legged Hawks in *Knox*, NE 17 Mar (MB) was excellent. A Golden Eagle was easterly in *Butler*, NE 15 Mar (CNK). The nominate subspecies of Merlin, *columbarius*, is not known to winter in Nebraska; one was in *Washington* 1 Mar (JR). Gyrfalcon is probably rare but regular in the n. Sandhills of Nebraska; one was identified by a falconer in *Brown* on the late date of 6 Mar (JS, *fide* JGJ).

A singing Black Rail in *Stafford*, KS was away from the usual Quivira site 17 May (JnL, JsL, KVV). The only King Rail reported away from Red Slough was in *Garfield*, OK 30 May (JRs, MF). Sixteen Virginia Rails in *Johnson*, KS 12 May (AP) made a good tally. Quivira's high count of Sandhill Cranes was 50,000 on 15 Mar (BJ). Piping Plovers appeared in the n. part of the Region 11 Apr in *Sarpy*, NE (CNK). An unusual group of 21 migrant Pipings was found in *Woodward*, OK 2 May (DW); the highest tally from a breeding station was of 35 in the Niobrara, NE vicinity, also 2 May (SSu). The first Mountain Plover nest for the season in Nebraska was found 8 May in *Kimball* (LS); 17 nests had been marked by 23 May to protect them from farm equipment (LS). Some 300+ Black-necked Stilts at Quivira 2 May (MR) were likely storm-grounded birds (MR). Two American Avocets were early in *Russell*, KS 15 Mar (KG, MR).

A very early Solitary Sandpiper was in *Sedgwick*, KS 11 Mar (JC), and an early Willet was in *Reno*, KS 7 Apr (PJ), whereas 2 Willets in *Russell*, KS 25 May (MR) were tardy. There were 19 Regional reports of Whimbrel this season (*fide* WRS, JK, JAG), including one rather early in *Madison*, NE 20 Apr (DH), a good count of 11 in *Reno*, KS 17 May (AM, BM), and one photographed at a *Riley* prairie-chicken lek 23 May (JSb). Long-billed Curlews passed through the w. parts of the Region as expected; a high count of 1460 in *Finney*, KS 4 Apr was quite notable (JC). Long-billeds also appeared e. of expected corridors in *Pawnee*, OK 23 Mar (JWo, L&MT), *Oklahoma*, OK 29 Mar (JB), *Tulsa*, OK 31 Mar

SA The range of Greater Prairie-Chicken covers much of Kansas except for in the sw. part of the state, where Lesser Prairie-Chicken predominates, ranging e. to *Kiowa* and *Comanche* and as far n. as *Ness* and *Gove* (*fide* JK). Recently, the more northerly Lessers have expanded northward, where they come into contact with Greaters. A recent study found that 5 of 64 male prairie-chickens captured as part of a study in nw. Kansas (*Gove* and *Logan*) were **Greater Prairie-Chicken × Lesser Prairie-Chicken** hybrids (Reid Plumb, *fide* JK). Lesser Prairie-Chicken has been in continuous decline since European settlement, and the populations, now a small fraction of their historical levels, have been under additional pressure from various forms of energy development and land uses. In response to the potential listing as threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the mid-1990s, a Lesser Prairie-Chicken Interstate Working Group was formed and developed a Range-wide Conservation Plan. The actions benefiting Lessers, in part, aided this micro-expansion of Lesser Prairie-Chickens into the range of Greater, adding hybridization to the potential threats faced by this species. In Sep 2012, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed listing the species under the Endangered Species Act; after several delays, the public comment period has been re-opened (Jan 2014).

Two Burrowing Owls were found 27 March 2013 in Kay County, north-central Oklahoma, formerly part of the species' normal range; these birds may well have bred at this location. *Photograph by Judy and Terry Irwin.*

(4 birds; BC, TM), *Hodgeman*, KS 14 Mar (MU), *Sarpy*, NE 13 Apr (RMa, m.ob.), and *Saunders*, NE 15 Apr (RSt, ph.). Also a high count were the 1200 Hudsonian Godwits in *Knox*, NE 21 Apr (MB); 3 in *Saunders*, NE 7 Apr (DL, RSt, RMa) were early. A Hudsonian observed in *Madison*, NE this spring (DH) had been banded on Chiloe Island, Chile in Jan 2008. Migration of Marbled Godwits seemed protracted this season, covering 13 Apr–28 May (*fide* WRS, JK). An exceptional spring find was a Red Knot in *Sequoyah*, OK 16 May (TR et al.). Among the few early arrivals were 2 White-rumped Sandpipers in *Gage*, NE 25 Apr (JGJ), 2 Pectoral Sandpipers in *Cowley*, KS 10 Mar (MT, GY), and a Stilt Sandpiper in *Saunders*, NE 13 Apr (SMa). Another record count, up to 400 Dunlins were in the Niobrara area of *Knox*, NE 24-25 Apr (CNK); one in *Scotts Bluff* 11 May (KD, AK) was westerly. Buff-breasted Sandpipers made a modest showing this season, with high counts 9 May of only 53 in *McClain*, OK (JAG) and 55 in *Tulsa*, OK (JWA). Short-billed Dowitcher is a rare May migrant; the 3 in *Lincoln*, NE 16 Apr (TJW) were record early. Also early were 4 Long-billed Dowitchers in *Gage*, NE 9 Mar (JGJ). An American Woodcock was westerly in *Kingman*, KS 11 Mar (MP). Easterly Red-necked Phalaropes included 4 in *Dodge*, NE 23 May (MN), 2 in *Linn*, KS 15 May (DT), and 1-2 in *Sequoyah*, OK 15-16 May (BH; TR et al.).

A Little Gull wintering in *Tulsa*, OK was last noted 23 Mar (JWo, L&MT). Laughing Gull, a rare Regional vagrant, was found this season in *Dodge*, NE 19 May (SMa, JMa, RMa, ph.), *Riley*, KS 30 Apr (AE, ER; ph.), and *Rooks*, KS 11 May (JG, MG, NA, NV). Early Franklin's Gulls appeared in *Tulsa* and *McCurtain*, OK in early Mar (m.ob.), with 2 in *Cowley*, KS 10 Mar (MT, GY) and 3 in *Riley*, KS 11 Mar (BS). While small compared to some fall counts, peak estimates of 30,000 Franklin's Gulls for Hefner 16 Apr (JAG), 9000 in *Douglas*, KS 17 Apr (JKe), and 20,000 for *Douglas*, NE 20 Apr (JR) were still impressive. Mew Gulls, a regular rarity in Nebraska, appeared in *Harlan*, NE 20-26 Mar (JGJ, CNK) and *Sedgwick*, KS 12 Mar (JC). Two ad. California Gulls in *Cowley*, KS 10 Mar (GY, MT) made the only report. Ad. Herring Gulls are rare in Nebraska after Apr, and a third-cycle bird in *Dodge* 28 May (L&BP) was unexpected. There were six reports of Thayer's Gull in Nebraska through 20 Apr (PD; *fide* WRS), including an ad. in *Douglas*, KS 2 Mar (MA, PHs). Eleven Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported this season 2 Mar–12 May (*fide* WRS, JK, JAG). The **Glaucous-winged Gull** found at McConaughy 16 Feb (JGJ) was last seen 23 Mar (RMa, SMa, m.ob.). At least 9 Glaucous Gulls were reported s. to *Tulsa*, OK as late as 12 Mar (m.ob.), with an exceptionally late bird seen 13 Apr in *Knox*, NE (DH, MB; *fide* WRS, JK). Caspian Terns numbered 150 in *Wagoner*, OK 4 May (AV). At least 18 Common Terns were reported in Nebraska and Kansas 4-25 May (*fide* WRS, JK), a good showing for this uncommon migrant in the Region.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The surge of Inca Doves into the Region has receded. This season, only 6 were reported from three Oklahoma locations, the most northerly in *Oklahoma* 22-28 May (DWh). Although only 10 Black-billed Cuckoos were reported, this was an increase from many previous seasons (*fide* WRS, JK, JAG), with one very early in *Labette*, KS 25 Apr (AB, ph.). The tail end of this past winter's echo of the major 2011-2012 invasion of Snowy Owls was marked by two reports in Nebraska: an ad. female was in *Morrill* 6 Mar (KD, AK), and a single was in *Hayes*, NE 9 Mar (RF). Barred Owl continues to expand its range westward along various riparian corridors; perhaps the most surprising this season was one was in *Fillmore*, NE 12 May (JGJ). Easterly breeding records of Burrowing Owl this season were provided by 2 in *Kay*, OK 27 Mar (J&TI) and 2 in *Chase*, KS 9 May (MH). Also in *Chase*, KS, a Short-eared Owl was rather late 10 May (MH). A Long-eared Owl nest was found in *Dixon*, NE 30 Mar (BFH), where a pair nested in 2012 (BFH); this species is a rarely detected but probably regular breeder in Nebraska. Dan Robinson documented a migration window of Long-eared Owls 17-26 Apr when he was able to locate 5 in *Cimarron*, OK. Noteworthy in *Rooks*, KS was a Northern Saw-whet Owl 1 Mar (JVK). A calling Eastern Whip-poor-will was westerly in *Harper*, KS 12 May (ES). Black-chinned Hummingbirds, limited mostly to sw. Oklahoma and the w. Oklahoma Panhandle, were noted in *Morton*, KS 9 (JM) & 18 May (JC). Unexpected was a Black-chinned as far e. as *Pratt*, KS 29 Apr–12 May (MR). Westerly male Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were in *Lincoln*, NE 15-20 May (VC, ph.) and *Woods*, OK 18 May (SuS). Spring Rufous Hummingbirds are almost unknown in the Region; an apparent female was at a McConaughy feeder 17 May (JBe, ph.). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was tardy in *Comanche*, OK 6 May (DG). A Lewis's Woodpecker in *Sioux*, NE 21 May was considered a "likely migrant" (WM).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH LONGSPURS

A Western Wood-Pewee in *Comanche*, OK 16 May (VF) was only the third spring record for the main body of Oklahoma—all in *Comanche*. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers made a good showing this season 6-28 May (*fide* WRS, JK, JAG). Cordilleran Flycatchers, a tough find in the Region, were noted 11-24 May in *Scotts Bluff* and *Dawes* (3 birds; KD, AK, NV), with another in *Cimarron*, OK 14 May (DR). Most surprising were the two reports of Say's Phoebe in extreme e. Nebraska in *Sarpy* 29 Apr (AF) and 4 May (RMa, SMa, ph.), and others e. of the usual range in *Jefferson*, NE 25 Apr (JGJ) and *Dodge*, NE 6 May (WF). There are very few records of

Part of an apparent flight of Long-eared Owls during April 2013 was this individual found 17 April in a farm plot in Cimarron County, Oklahoma. *Photograph by Dan Robinson.*

Ash-throated Flycatcher in Kansas away from the sw. corner of the state; this season, singles appeared in *Seward* 19 May (JC) and in *Stafford* 2 May (SS, ph.). An Ash-throated in *Jackson*, OK 30 Mar was quite early (JWo et al.). Vermilion Flycatchers were back in *Cimarron*, OK, the only breeding outpost in the Region, by 16 Apr (JWo, m.ob.). Single Cassin's Kingbirds in *Cimarron*, OK 16 & 20 May (JWo, DR) were early, while one in *Wichita*, KS 26 Apr (SS) was easterly. An early Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Red Slough 18 Mar (DA), while an Eastern Kingbird made it there by 2 Apr (DA). The last Northern Shrikes reported in Kansas were seen 30 Mar in *Riley* (BS) and *Rooks* (JVK); Nebraska's latest were both 13 Apr, in *McPherson* and *Logan*, NE (WF). Westerly Yellow-throated Vireos were in *Ness*, KS 10 May (NA, MG, JG) and *Morton*, KS 18 May (JM). Plumbeous Vireo is a rare migrant along the extreme w. edge of the Region; 4 were reported 3-21 May (DW, TC, JM, KD, DR). The second spring record of Cassin's Vireo in Nebraska came from *Scotts Bluff* 31 May (KD); this bird, and 2 near *Bushnell* and *Kimball*, NE 1 Jun 2011 (JGJ), suggest that Cassin's may be a late migrant, possibly overlooked. Philadelphia Vireos made a healthy showing in the e. third of the Region, with at least 40 reports 2-24 May, most of them 5-11 May (*fide* WRS, JAG).

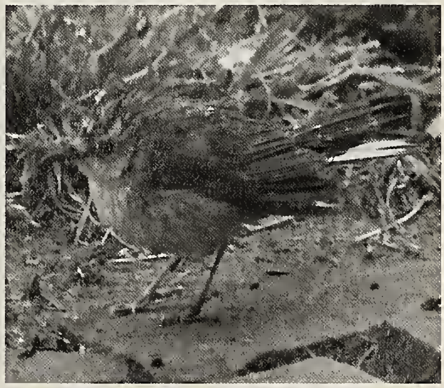
A Black-billed Magpie in *Stafford*, KS 5 May (DKz, SS) was in a part of the state where the species has become unexpected in recent years. Common Raven continues to occupy its *Morton*, KS outpost, where there were reports 20 Apr–9 May (*fide* JK) and an active nest was discovered 3 May (DW, TC). One of few recent records of Chihuahuan Raven along the 100th meridian, one was in *Roger Mills*, OK 31 May (L&MT). The last date reported for the mini-incursion of about 7 Steller's Jays into *Scotts Bluff*, NE this winter was of one there 5 Mar (MS). Early arriving swallows included 2 Northern Rough-wingeds in *Cleveland*, OK 9 Mar (RG), a Violet-green in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 6 Apr (KD), and Barn Swallows in *Osage*, OK 6 Mar (SH) and *Nemaha*, NE 3 Apr (LE). Cave Swallows had returned to their Wichita Mountains, OK nesting site by 6 May (L&MT); 6 were noted at a culvert site in *Kiowa*, OK 30 Apr (VF). Red-breasted Nuthatches lingered through 15 May in *Sherman*, KS (HA), 17 May in *Beaver*, OK (ET), and 24 May in *Texas*, OK (RR). Expanding the fringes of their range were Carolina Wrens in *Scott*, KS 12 Apr (SS), *Gage*, NE 14 Mar (LE), and *Dakota*, NE 3-30 Mar (BFH). A westerly Sedge Wren was in *Norton*, KS 10 May (PJ). A late Golden-crowned Kinglet was in *Geary*, KS 2 May (JKe); a late Ruby-crowned Kinglet was in *Reno*, KS 24 May (AM. BM, JMi). A significant surprise was a family group of Mountain Bluebirds in *Comanche*, OK, a clear outpost location, 20 (JAG) & 28 May (JRs, MF). Easterly Townsend's Solitaires in Kansas were in *Riley* 3 Mar (DRi) and in *Sedgwick* 30 Mar (KVB); one in *Thomas* 10 May (PJ) was late. Veery made a decent showing along the e. edge of the Region, with at least 28 reports (*fide* WRS, JK), while one of the w. subspecies group was in *Lincoln* 27 May (TJW). Hermit Thrushes were late in departing this season, with one of the e. subspecies group in *Cleveland*, OK 20-21 Apr (JAG) and one of the w. subspecies group in *Cimarron*, OK 28 May (DR). Wood Thrushes were westerly in *Dewey*, OK 16 May (JAG) and at Quivira 25 May (WE).

Sprague's Pipit may be a species of concern; one observer (JAG) counted only 2 this season in a regularly monitored site where up to 10 can be found during migration. An amazing 3500-4000 Cedar Waxwings brightened Winfield, KS 10 Mar (GY, MT). The largest aggregation of Lapland Longspurs was the 8000 in *Gage*, NE 14 Mar (LE), and one in *Reno*, KS 24 Apr was late (JMi; *fide* JK), as were the 50 still in *Dodge*, NE 23 Apr (D&JP). The highest tally of Chestnut-collared Longspurs was 200 in *Scott*, KS 28 Mar (SS); the species was somewhat difficult to find in cen. and w. Oklahoma this season. Twenty-two Smith Longspurs were tardy in *Osage*, OK 26 Mar (THo). A McCown's Longspur was easterly at Cheyenne Bottoms 6 Apr (MA, PHs).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Two Ovenbirds in *Richardson*, NE 27 Apr (JR) were a bit early, and the 4 in *Comanche*, OK 11-12 May (VF, DG) were westerly. A Northern Waterthrush in *Lancaster* 17 Apr (LE) tied Nebraska's record-early date. Extralimital Worm-eating Warblers were in *Payne*, OK (ET) and far w. in *Morton*, KS (DW, TC), both 3 May. Blue-winged Warblers were found along the e. edge of the Region in Oklahoma and Kansas 4-12 May (*fide* JK, JAG). Golden-winged Warblers showed well; 2 were in *Tulsa*, OK 10-11 May (TM, BC), 3 were found at each of two locations in *Douglas*, KS 10 May (JK, MRo), and Nebraska hosted 6 birds 8-19 May (*fide* WRS). Orange-crowned Warblers lingered in Kansas and Oklahoma in good numbers, with 24 in *Douglas*, KS 12 May (MRo); one was very late in *Cimarron*, OK 28 May (DR). Prothonotary Warblers pushing the northerly edge were a single in *Dodge*, NE 15 May (GR) and 2 in *Dixon*, NE 3-4 May (*fide* JJ, RR, SSu, SR). Swainson's Warblers had arrived in *McCurtain*, OK by 13 Apr (DWo et al.). A rare Connecticut Warbler was in *Sarpy*, NE 21-23 May (RS, PD). A Kentucky Warbler in *Lancaster*, NE 25 Apr (DL) was one day short of record early. A Hooded Warbler, rare in Nebraska, occurred 1 May in *Lincoln* (VC; ph.), with 2 others judged migrants in *Lancaster* and *Sarpy* 15 & 28 May (MUs, DL) and a territorial male in *Sarpy* 17-28 May (JMu, KS, m.ob.). Magnolia Warblers were westerly in *Beaver*, OK 11 May (ET) and *Reno*, KS 13 May (AM). Although quite rare in the Region, 3 Cape May Warblers were found in Kansas and 4 in Nebraska 9-25 May (*fide* WRS, JK). Northern Parulas strayed to w.-cen. Oklahoma (three reports; *fide* JAG), and Kansas and Nebraska contributed six more reports in the same portion of those states (*fide* WRS, JK), with one as far w. as *Grant*, KS 8 May (KH, SG). Female Black-throated Blue Warblers were found in *Merrick*, NE 19 May (SMa, DL; m.ob.) and *Cimarron*, OK 24-25 May (DR). A Pine Warbler was in *Otoe*, NE 8 May (MRa). An Audubon's Warbler surprised observers in *Lincoln*, NE 18-25 Mar (TJW); 2 appeared in the same location in late winter in the previous year (TJW). A Myrtle Warbler was late in *Morton*, KS 18 May (JC). A Yellow-throated Warbler in *Buffalo*, NE 18 May (KS) was westerly; this species also appears to be establishing itself in cen. Oklahoma (*fide* JAG) and possibly s.-cen. Kansas (*fide* JK). Townsend's Warblers were located in *Hodgeman*, KS 28 Apr–8 May (JC, ph.), *Cimarron*, OK 3 May (ET et al.), and *Sherman*, KS 15 May (HA). Furnishing a first Regional record was a male **Golden-cheeked Warbler** singing on territory in the Wichita Mountains, OK 6 & 11 May (DF, MC); it was not re-located. A few westerly Blackburnian Warblers were in Oklahoma, with singles in *Stephens* 11 May (BA), *Comanche* 14 May (KP et al.), and *McClain* 22 May (LM). Also westerly was a Canada Warbler in *Comanche*, OK 28 Apr (VF). A Wilson's Warbler at Quivira 31 May (JWi) was tardy.

A Summer Tanager in *Morton*, KS 4 May (DW, TC) appeared to be of the sw. subspecies *cooperi*. Westerly Scarlet Tanagers were in *Custer*, OK 19 Apr (JO), *Morton*, KS 17 May (JC), and *Norton*, KS 10 May (PJ). Easterly Western Tanagers were in *Cass*, NE 11 May



A little the worse for wear after travel was this female Hooded Warbler that found its way to the Sandhills of Lincoln County, Nebraska 1 May 2013. *Photograph by Virginia Clark.*

Black-throated Blue Warblers are rare spring migrants in the Southern Great Plains but may in fact be easiest to find in far western Oklahoma, where trees are limited to a few small ranchyards. This female was photographed 25 May 2013 in Cimarron County. *Photograph by Dan Robinson.*

(KSc, ph.) and *Knox* 28 May (C&DJ, *fide* MB, ph.). Green-tailed Towhee is a rare but annual spring migrant through the w. portion of the Region; 8 were reported 1-15 May (*fide* WRS, JK, JAG). Eastern Towhee edged westward in both Kansas and Nebraska 24 Apr–10 May (*fide* WRS, JK), with an influx into *Scotts Bluff*, where 6 were found at two locations 4-21 May (KD). Six Cassin's Sparrows were found northward in *Hitchcock*, NE 27 May (TJW); one was easterly in *Stafford*, KS 5 May (DKz, SS). An American Tree Sparrow was tardy in *Dixon*, NE 28 Apr (JJ). Furnishing only about the tenth record for Kansas was a **Black-throated Sparrow** in *Morton* 3 May (DW, TC). Lark Buntings appeared in e. Kansas and se. Nebraska, at least 6 birds at five locations (*fide* WRS, JK). The 32 Lark Buntings at Quivira 11 May (*fide* JK) made a notable count. Three Baird's Sparrows were reported: one was in *Riley*, KS 28 Apr (GW), and 2 were in *Kiowa*, KS 10 May (JnL, JsL, KVV; ph.). Late sparrows included a Le Conte's at Hefner 7 May (THo et al.), a Fox at Quivira 2 May (MR), a White-crowned in *Lincoln*, NE 29 May (TJW), a Song in *Comanche*, OK 29 Apr (VF), and a Slate-colored Junco in *Shawnee*, KS 13 May (MPl). A White-winged Junco was in *Pawnee*, KS 12 Mar (SS). Gray-headed Juncos were noted e. to Quivira 11 May (AM et al.) and *Lincoln*, NE 4 Apr and 5 May (LD).

The westernmost Rose-breasted Grosbeak were singles in *Texas*, OK 7 May (RR) and *Scotts Bluff*, NE 11 May (KD). Easterly Black-headed Grosbeaks were in *Douglas*, NE 1 May (DSt), *Lancaster*, NE 8 May (DL), and *Sarpy*, NE 11 May (*fide* CNK). At least 32 Lazuli Buntings were reported this season from cen. Oklahoma, e. Kansas, and e. Nebraska (*fide* WRS, JK, JAG). Lazuli Buntings in *Johnston*, OK 10 Apr (JRh) and *Lincoln*, NE 25 Apr (TJW) were nearly record early. Also early were Indigo Buntings in *Johnston*, OK 7 Apr (DWo) and *Otoe*, NE 21 Apr (LF). An Eastern Meadowlark was westerly in *Scott*, KS 6 Apr (SS). A Yellow-headed Blackbird was early on territory in *Grant*, NE 8 Mar (JR, D&JP). Eight Rusty Blackbirds were unexpected wintering in *Custer*, NE (TH), and 5 were in *Keith*, NE 23 Mar (SMa). In Kansas, a "small group" of Rusties was found in *Ellis* 2 Mar (TM), and one was in *Rooks* 7 Mar (JVK). A brilliant male **Hooded Oriole** stopped over at Garrison, *Butler*, NE 25-28 May (B&SD, CD, m.ob.), and a **Scott's Oriole** was found freshly dead in *Beaver* 18 Apr (ET), Oklahoma's first. A male Hooded Oriole was reported with reasonable details from *Platte*, NE 12 May 1965, but otherwise there are no other reports from the state. A Baltimore Oriole was early in *Johnson*, KS 7 Apr (NV), and a Bullocks' Oriole at a McConaughy feeder 15 May (JBe) was easterly.

Of the wintering flock of Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches in *Scotts Bluff*, NE, only 3 remained on 2 Mar (KD). Red Crossbills continued their presence in the Region, most of them of the expected Type 2 (*fide* WRS, JK, JAG). Two male Type 3 Red Crossbills were in *Russell*, KS 4 May (MA, JK; ph., v.r.), and several Type 10s were among the 7 Reds noted in *Tulsa*, OK 4-9 May (JGa). The only reports of White-winged Crossbill were of singles in *Pawnee* 6 Mar (SS) and *Johnson*, KS 8 May (NA). Common Redpolls were legion in Nebraska, with impressive counts of 350 in *Cherry* 8 Mar (JR et al.) and 200 in *Washington* 21 Mar (JT); by 30 Mar, the highest count was only 4-5 in *Douglas* (NR), and singles persisted in *Douglas* 1 May (BW) and *Sarpy* 5 May (EB). Fewer redpolls were in Kansas, with reports of one in *Johnson* through 27 Mar (MK), one in *Leavenworth* 14 Mar (GP), and up to 9 at another *Johnson* location 2-3 Mar (JWi). Pine Siskins were locally common well into May; 2 were seen carrying nest material in *Lancaster*, NE 8 May (RSt), and 2-4 in the same county were "possibly nesting" 20 May (CH, *fide* JGJ). The last Evening Grosbeaks reported were surprisingly late: a wintering female in *Washington*, NE was seen through 11 May (M&HP), and a male in *Cowley*, KS stayed until 10 May (MT). Others were singles in *Shawnee*, KS 8 Mar (JH) and *Harvey*, KS 30 Mar (KG).

Cited observers (state compilers in boldface): NEBRASKA: Elliott Bedows, Jay Belsan (JBe), Mark Brogie, Virginia Clark, Bill & Suzy Daro, Linda Deeds, Kathy DeLara, Paul Dunbar, Larry Einemann, Larry Falk, William Flack, Randy Floyd, Andrew Furman, Jonas Grundman (JGr), Joe Gubanyi, Tim Hajda, Robin Harding, Dave Heidt, Chris Helzer, Paula Hoppe, Bill F. Huser, Pete Janzen, Chuck & Donna Johnson, Jan Johnson, Joel G. Jorgensen, Alice Kenitz, Clem N. Klaphake, Dan Leger, Jill Liske-Clark, Joe Manning (JMa), Robert Manning (RMa), Sam Manning (SMa), Chris Merkord, Wayne Mollhoff, John Murphy (JMu), Ryan Munes, Marsha Nyffeler, Loren & Babs Padelford, Don & Jan Paseka, Myron & Holly Peterson, Balchandra Pujari, Mike Rader (MRa), Lanny Randolph, Neal Ratzlaff, Justin Rink, Ryan Risher, Gary Roberts, Samantha Robinson, Rick Schmid, Kathy Schwery (KSc), Ruben Siegfried (RSg), **W. Ross Silcock**, Kent Skaggs, Jennifer Smith, Marie Smith, Larry Snyder, David Stage (DSt), Ruth Stearns (RSt), Shawn Sullivan (SSu), Jerry Toll, Moni Usasz (MUs), Nic Varvel, T.J. Walker, Bob Wells. KANSAS: Steve Addinall, Nic Allen, Michael Andersen, Henry Armknecht, Andrew Burnett, Ted Cable, Jeff Calhoun, Stan Chapman, Wayne Elder, Amy Erikson, Matt Gearheart, Jenny Gearheart, Kevin Groeneweg, Jeff Hansen, Kellye Hart, Mark Herse, Chris Hobbs (CHo), Pete Hosner (PHs), Pete Janzen, Barry Jones, Don Kazamaier (DKz), Jeff Keating (JKe), Jon King, Dave Klema, Mark Land, Jack Landes, Jonathan Lautenbach (JnL), Joseph Lautenbach (JsL), Erik Maatta (EMt), Jim Malcom, Billie McDavitt (BMc), Tom McDavitt (TMc), Mick McHugh, Andrew Miller, Bryant Miller, Cheryl Miller, Joseph Miller (JMi), Jeff Olsen (JOl), Alexi Powell, Galen Pittman, Mary Plinsky (MPl), Reid Plumb, Mike Rader, Edward Raynor, Dave Rintoul (DRi), Mark Robbins (MRo), John Row (JRw), Brett Sandercock, Joanna Sblendorio (JSb), Scott Seltman, Eddie Stegall, Chris Taylor, Dan Thalman, Max Thompson, Mike Umscheid, Kurt Van Boening (KVB), Jonathan Van de Kopple (JVK), Kevin Van de Vusse (KVV), Nick Varvel, Ginger Winder, Jeff Witters (JWi), David Wiggins, Gene Young. OKLAHOMA: Bill Adams, Dave Arbour, James W. Arterburn, Jim Bates, Bill Carrell, Matt Critean, Bill Diffin, Vic Fazio, III, Drew Finn, Mathew Fuirst, David Gagne, Judy Garmaker (JGa), **Joseph A. Grzybowski**, Richard Gunn, Suzy Harris, Berlin Heck, Glen Henslie, Judy & Terry Irwin, Torre Hovick (THo), Jamie Jorski (JaJ), Tomasz Kudor, Jeff Lemons (JLe), Larry Mays, Terry Mitchell, John Muller (JMl), Jack Olson, Kim Pierce, Rachelle Randell, Justin Roach (JRh), Dan Robinson, Tommie Rogers, Jeremy Ross (JRs), Sue Selman (SuS), Jana Singletary (JSi), Evan Tanner, Lou & Mary Truex, Pat Velte, Antoinette Verne, Christian Walker, Daniel Whalen (DWh), David Wiggins, Jay & Judy Wilbur, Ken Williams, Doug Wood (DWo), Jimmy Woodard (JWo).

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Texas

Canadian River
Amarillo
Buffalo Lake N.W.R.
Red River
Muleshoe N.W.R.
Lubbock
Wichita Falls
Hagerman N.W.R.
Dallas
Fort Worth
Abilene
Guadalupe Mtns N.P.
El Paso
Midland
Colorado River
Waco
Brazos River
Nacogdoches
Pecos River
San Angelo
Balmorhea L.
Rio Grande
Davis Mtns
Austin
Houston
High Island
Freeport
Del Rio
San Antonio
Big Bend N.P.
Nueces River
Rio Grande
Aransas N.W.R.
Rockport
Corpus Christi
Kingsville
Falcon Dam
Laguna Atascosa N.W.R.
Bentsen S.P.
Santa Ana N.W.R.
Brownsville

Mark W. Lockwood
Eric Carpenter
Willie Sekula

The spring of 2013 again saw a continuation of below-average precipitation throughout much of the state. Perhaps the hardest hit by this extended drought was the northwestern portion of the state. However, these widespread dry conditions were not the only weather phenomena that made headlines this season. For much of the state, the spring was relatively cool and dominated by strong cold fronts. Major fronts passed through the state in late April and early May, with hard freezes recorded from the Panhandle south through the western Hill Country and Trans-Pecos associated with the early May system. Cooksey noted that the front that blew through Corpus Christi 24 April dropped temperatures into the low 50s F and was the first truly cold late April front in some two decades. Throughout the eastern half of the state, above-normal numbers of Wood Thrushes, Veeries, Gray-cheeked Thrushes, and Scarlet Tanagers were reported as well as a wide variety of warblers. Large numbers of migrants were noted at many inland locations into mid-May, and there was certainly a push of eastern migrants into the western portions of the state.

WATERFOWL THROUGH SPOONBILLS

A large gathering of 100+ Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks was found in sw. *Henderson* 31 Mar (DDC, DeL); more surprising were pairs near Diboll, *Angelina* 1 Apr and 17 May (RT), where breeding has not yet been confirmed. A Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Village Creek Drying Beds, *Tarrant* 23 Apr–6 May (BNe, GrC, LBu, m.ob.) was exceptional. Continuing from winter, the 2 Tundra Swans at Anahuac N.W.R., *Chambers* were last seen 3 Mar (m.ob.). A high count of 15 Cinnamon Teal came from Richland Creek W.M.A., *Navarro* 15 Mar (MSy). Late was a Hooded Merganser at El Paso, *El Paso* 19 Apr (DAB). Six Red-breasted Mergansers at Lake Ransom Canyon, *Lubbock* 2 Mar (CaC) was a high count, while 5 at Stillhouse Hollow Lake, *Bell* 3 May (GE, RPi) seemed late; one at Lake Meredith, *Hutchinson* 31 May (ME) was exceptionally so. A male Masked Duck was at Sabal Palm, *Cameron* 29 Apr–6 May (ph. SP, m.ob.).

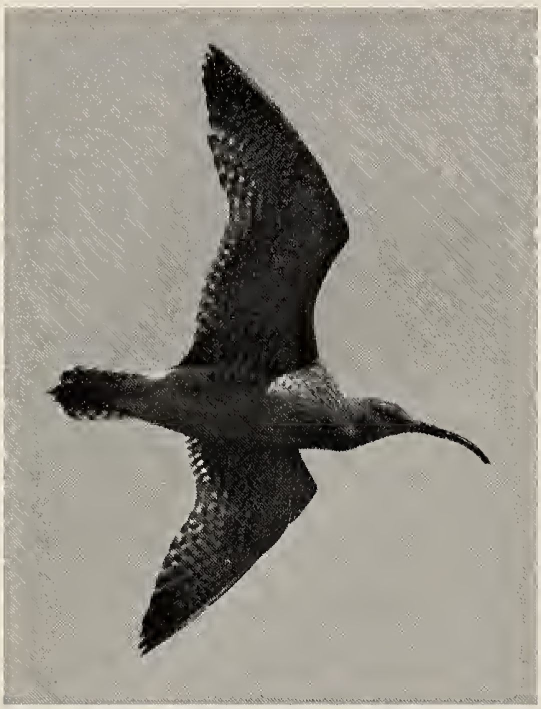
A Plain Chachalaca was unusually far n. at Alice, *Jim Wells* 7 May (TLa). Rarely reported in the Central Brazos Valley, 2 singles and a group of 4 Wild Turkeys were just s. of Lake Somerville, *Washington* 30 Mar (ph. DB, LBr). Still not a regular find in cen. Texas, a Pacific Loon stopped at Lake Travis, *Travis* 28 Apr (ph. EC, MBu, KA, PSu). A Horned Grebe at Freeport, *Brazoria* 11 May+ (ph. JF et al.) extended the late Upper Texas Coast (hereafter, U.T.C.) date for this species. A Western Grebe was a surprise on the Rio Grande at Eagle Pass, *Maverick* 13 Mar (ph. BrC, RSm). Lingering Western Grebes included one at Lake Cypress Springs, *Franklin* until 10 Mar (DB, LBr), 3 at Lake O' the Pines, *Marion* through 13 Mar (MD, BHe, JoS, DWa), and 2-3 at Thompson's Fishing Camp, *Harris* until 22 Apr (ph. SLo et al.). Perhaps most surprising was one at Port Aransas, *Nueces* 27 Mar–15 May (m.ob.). A Clark's Grebe at Lubbock, *Lubbock* 13 Apr (ph. NP, m.ob.) was a rare local find.

The previously reported wild, banded American Flamingo (dubbed "HDNT" for its band code) and a Greater Flamingo (escaped from a Kansas zoo) are still roaming the Texas coast. First noted together in Oct 2005, they were again detected on Lavaca Bay, *Calhoun* in late May+ (ph. BO). Four Wood Storks at Alazan Bayou, *Nacogdoches* 27 May (DWo, RT) were early by a month or more. A remarkable 5 ad. Brown Boobies were seen flying past Indian Point on Corpus Christi Bay, *Nueces* 19 Mar (ph. GL); an imm. was along the beach at San Luis Pass, *Galveston* 31 May (ph. OTH). Two Neotropic Cormorants remained 21 Apr–31 May at Lubbock, *Lubbock* (CaC, m.ob.), where they are still not quite annual. An Anhinga w. of Junction, *Kimble* 4 May (MLo) was farther w. than expected. Inland Brown Pelicans are rare; 2 were over Lake Nacogdoches, *Nacogdoches* 7 Apr (CA), one was at Kirby Lake, *Taylor* 25-26 May (ph. DB, LBr), and one was on Lake Bastrop, *Bastrop* 31 May–1 Jun (ph. JL). As many as 5 American Bitterns remained from the winter at Country Club Lake, *Brazos*, including one still there 8 May (MGa); 10 at Alazan Bayou, *Nacogdoches* 14 Mar –2 May (RT, DWo, RuH) was a great count. A fledged American Bittern at Anahuac N.W.R., *Chambers* 24 May provided a rare breeding record for the U.T.C. (JKe); another at Brazoria N.W.R., *Brazoria* 26 May (EZ) also could have been breeding. Becoming more regular in w. Texas, a Little Blue Heron at Lubbock, *Lubbock* 18 Apr–3 May (CaC, QE, AHe) was still quite early. A Tricolored Heron at Big Spring, *Real* 30 May (TrD) was westerly; one at Temple, *Bell* 23-26 Apr and a pair there 28 Apr (RPi) were also unexpected for the spring. A Reddish Egret wandered to Laredo, *Webb* 6 Apr (ph. RDe, PB). A White Ibis at Red Bluff Lake, *Reeves/Loving* 23 Mar (BF) was a surprise. The only inland Glossy Ibis reported was one at Temple, *Bell* 8 Apr (RPi). Impressive was a careful count of 5500 White-faced Ibis coming in to roost along the Rio Grande at El Paso, *El Paso* 18 Apr (JiP); 29 over Pecan Park in Nacogdoches, *Nacogdoches* 5 May (DWo) was a high count for the Pineywoods. A very rare spring record for Roseate Spoonbill in the Pineywoods, one was at Alazan Bayou, *Nacogdoches* 11 May (LD et al.).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

Wayward Swallow-tailed Kites included one at Salineño, *Starr* 19 Mar (JM), one at Waco, *McLennan* 14 Apr (MHe), one over the San Gabriel River near Granger Lake, *Williamson* 21 Apr (CSe), and 2 at Livingston, *Polk* 17 May (CE). A White-tailed Kite at Alazan Bayou, *Nacogdoches* 13 Apr (KH, TH) was the first for the area in several years. A **Common Black-Hawk** at Lake Tanglewood, *Randall* 28 Mar–6 Apr (ph. AL) was completely unexpected. Edging farther n. were single Harris's Hawks at Kleb Woods, *Harris* 16 Mar (FC, KK), in the Peach Creek Community, *Brazos* 17 Mar (DV), and it or another nearby s. of College Station, *Brazos* 25 Mar (GuC, MaC). Lone Broad-winged Hawks were w. to El Paso, *El Paso* 13 Apr (JiP) and 3 May (BZ, KZ). The wintering Rough-legged Hawk at Galveston, *Galveston* remained until 4 Apr (CD et al.). A Black Rail at Anahuac N.W.R., *Chambers* 13-21 Apr was the first on the annual spring rail walks since Hurricane *Ike* moved through in Sep 2008 (DSa et al.). A King Rail was locally rare at John Bunker Sands

Red Phalarope is a very rare fall migrant through Texas and is accidental in spring. This bird was at Balmorhea Lake, Reeves County 7 May 2013. *Photograph by Mike Dillon.*



Undoubtedly the highlight of the spring 2013 season in Texas was the state's first Eurasian Whimbrel found at Crystal Beach, Galveston County 29 April–19 May (here 6 May). Plumage indicates the nominate subspecies rather than Asian *variegatus*. *Photograph by Michael Lindsey.*

Wetlands, *Kaufman* 7 Apr (BlC). A Virginia Rail was studied at Country Club Lake, Bryan, *Brazos* 13-14 Apr (BN, ph. BrC), where the species is rarely detected. A rather early Purple Gallinule was at Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* 3 Apr (BF), while one at Cedar Park, *Williamson* 12-18 May (ph. RKo, m.ob.) was pushing the w. edge of the species' range. Exceptionally late was a Sandhill Crane near Anahuac N.W.R., *Chambers* 30 Apr (ph. JT). A radio-tracked female Whooping Crane from the experimental re-introduced population in Louisiana was recorded close to the Trinity River N.W.R., *Liberty* as it crossed ne. Texas 12-14 Mar (*fide* CSh). A pair of year-old cranes from this same group moved northwestward from St. Mary Parish, LA 27 Apr (*fide* VD) and wound up lingering at Lake Ray Hubbard, *Dallas* 28 Apr+ (CR, m.ob.).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

American Golden-Plovers pushing the w. edge of the typical migration path included 2 at Utopia, *Uvalde* 9 Mar (MH), one at Lubbock, *Lubbock* 7-8 Apr (CaC, QE, RR), one near the Uvalde Fish Hatchery, *Uvalde* 24 Apr (TLe, MI), another at Junction, *Kimble* 2 May (RhH), and one that was rather late at McGee Lake, *Potter* 30-31 May (SFi). Up to 3 Snowy Plovers lingered at Fort Hancock Reservoir, *Hudspeth* 1 May+ (BZ, KZ), with one apparently incubating eggs; there are no confirmed nesting records in the El Paso area. Inland Piping Plovers are scarce, so 2 at Hornsby Bend, *Travis* 2 May (ph. EC), one at Lake Tyler, *Smith* 2-3 May (PB, MBl, ph. DG), and 2 at Union Grove W.M.A., *Bell* 5 May (ph. GE, MSt) were all notable. Normally, Black-necked Stilts migrate w. of the Pineywoods, so singles near Clawson, *Angelina* 16 Apr (LD, LSm) and at Alazan Bayou W.M.A., *Nacogdoches* 2 May (ph. RM) were unexpected. A bit early and westerly was a Whimbrel at Temple, *Bell* 22 Mar (RPi); another was nearby at Belton Lake, *Bell* 27 Apr (RPi). A **Eurasian Whimbrel** at Crystal Beach, *Galveston* 29 Apr–19 May (ph. CCo, m.ob.) was a highlight of the season. A first for Texas, the bird's plumage indicated that it was of the nominate subspecies. Two Hudsonian Godwits at Stubblefield Lake, *Brazoria* 5 Apr (SH) were quite early. Great finds were single Hudsonian Godwits at El Dorado, *Schleicher* 5 & 13 May (ph. SJ) as well as up to 8 at Carter Lake, *Brazos* 4-6 May (JHa, LH et al.). Very surprising was a Red Knot at Lake Tawakoni, *Van Zandt* 27 Apr (RKi). Rare in spring and record early for the El Paso area, a Sanderling was at McNary Reservoir, *Hudspeth* 21 Apr (ph. JiP). Westward White-rumped Sandpipers included 3 at McNary Reservoir, *Hudspeth* 15 May (MF) and another near Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, *El Paso* 21 May (ph. DAB). A Ruff was an excellent find at Anahuac N.W.R., *Chambers* 13 Apr– 4 May (CCh, ph. m.ob.). An astoundingly late Wilson's Snipe was at Mad Island Marsh Preserve, *Matagorda* 31 May (RW, CB). A single American Woodcock doing an injury/distraction display at Bastrop S.P., *Bastrop* 7 Apr (BF) was almost certainly nesting. Reports of Red-necked Phalarope included one at the Uvalde Fish Hatchery, *Uvalde* 20 Apr (TLe, MI) and another at Indian Point, *Nueces* 18 May (JM). Quite unusual for spring, a **Red Phalarope** was a great find on Balmorhea Lake, *Reeves* 7 May (ph. MD).

The Black-legged Kittiwake present at Port Aransas, *Nueces* from the winter remained until 26 Mar (m.ob.). A very worn Bonaparte's Gull at Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 14 May (MeC) was quite late. A Little Gull was at Lake Ray Hubbard, *Dallas* 15 Apr (CR). A California Gull made a late stop at McNary Reservoir, *Hudspeth* 25 May (JiP). Single California Gulls were present in *Galveston* at Engine Pond 23 Mar (DuL) and San Luis Pass 28 Mar (AH, JiS). A worn Herring Gull at Granger Lake, *Williamson* 31 May (ph. GSt) was quite unseasonable. A Lesser Black-backed Gull present at Lake Somerville, *Washington/Lee* 30 Mar (ph. DB, LBr) provided a first record for the Central Brazos Valley. A Glaucous Gull lingered at Texas City Dike, *Galveston* until 13 Mar (MLi et al.). Single lingering Great Black-backed Gulls were at Quintana, *Brazoria* until 31 Mar (TFr) and San Luis Pass, *Galveston* until 28 Mar (ph. AH). A rather early Sooty Tern was at South Padre Island, *Cameron* 4 Mar (ph. ScD). Formerly a rare but regular visitor in late spring and early summer in the Trans-Pecos, records of Least Tern have dried up there in recent years, so one at El Paso 9-14 May (BZ) was a welcome find. Exceptional inland were 2 Gull-billed Terns at Mitchell Lake, *Bexar* 14 May (GSc et al.). A Caspian Tern at Lubbock, *Lubbock* 3-4 May (CaC, SCo, AHe, RR) provided a rare local record. Of note was a Black Skimmer at Delta Lake, *Hidalgo* 13 Apr (DJ). Four skimmers there 20 Apr (MBS) were even more notable given the inland location. During winter 2012-2013, Razorbills staged an unprecedented invasion that extended into the e. Gulf of Mexico. One of these birds reached as far w. as Louisiana on 14 Feb, and this season, a **Razorbill** finally reached Texas: one was studied offshore just n. of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, *Galveston* 16 Mar (†VD) to provide a first record for the state and the westernmost record of the species in the world.

PIGEONS THROUGH FALCONS

Red-billed Pigeons have become rare in *Hidalgo* in recent years, so one at Santa Ana N.W.R. 13 May (*fide* MGu) was of interest. Unexpected was a Common Ground-Dove at Possum Kingdom S.P., *Palo Pinto* 18 May (JaP). The range of White-tipped Dove appears to be moving northward into the Hill Country. This season one was at Devils River S.N.A., *Val Verde* 16 Apr (CSh), while another became a regular visitor to the feeding station at Lost Maples S.N.A., *Bandera* in early Apr+, later joined by a second bird (m.ob., ph. RDu). This species was also noted through the season at Chalk Bluff Park, *Uvalde* (m.ob.). Single Black-billed Cuckoos at Utopia, *Uvalde* 1 May (MH) and at Castroville, *Medina* 13 May (CSe) were noteworthy. More expected in fall, a Groove-billed Ani was found near Fort Davis, *Jeff Davis* 27 May (MLo). Long-eared Owl is an enigmatic species, and this season lingering birds were again found, with 5 in ne. *Clay* 15 Mar (GM), up to 4 in *Lubbock* until 13 Apr (SCo, CaC et al.), and 2 near Bledsoe, *Cochran* 21 Apr (CRu, LSa). Incredibly, two **Long-eared Owl** nests were discovered in the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* 25-26 May (MGu, RPi, RKo et al.). Four Short-eared Owls at Lubbock, *Lubbock* 13 Apr (AHe, RR, CaC, CrC) provided a very late sighting. At least 6 different Lesser Nighthawks were reported from the U.T.C. this spring, with the most easterly bird located at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 28 Apr (ph. MI, JeB). Quite out of place was a lone White-throated Swift at Chalk Bluff Park, *Uvalde* 24 Apr (ph. MHa). A Green Violetear visited San Benito, *Cameron* 12-15 May (ph. TFu); another stopped at Wimberley, *Hays* 26-29 May (ph. LSh, BA). Unexpected and only about the fifth or sixth record for *Brazos* since 1970, a male Black-chinned Hummingbird was at Wellborn 11 Apr+ (ph. HB, JoB, m.ob.). Wintering Broad-tailed Hummingbirds lingered in *Brazos* at Bryan until 14 Mar (SaD) and College Station until 2 Apr (HB, JoB). Unexpected finds of Broad-tailed Hummingbirds included singles at Laredo, *Webb* 18 Apr (BN) and San Antonio, *Bexar* 24-27 Apr (ph. LR). A single Calliope Hummingbird was a good find at Lafitte's Cove, *Galveston* 4 Mar–4 Apr (AW et al.). A male Broad-billed Hummingbird was at El Paso, *El Paso* 24-28 Mar (ph. JKi). A Ringed Kingfisher, first reported from Lake Tanglewood, *Randall* in Feb remained until 2 Mar (JE). A Green Kingfisher at Seabourne Creek Nature Park, *Fort Bend* 3 Apr (LM, ph. WP et al.) provided a first county record.

The Lewis's Woodpecker that wintered at El Paso, *El Paso* was last seen 7 Apr (JKi), and the wintering bird at Vinton, *El Paso* was last reported 23 Mar (DAB). The wintering Red-headed Woodpecker near Lorenzo, *Crosby* remained until 12 Apr (*fide* MLo). An Acorn Woodpecker at Midland, *Midland* 24 Mar (MN) was locally quite rare. Rarely detected in migration, a female Williamson's Sapsucker visited El Paso, *El Paso* 21 Apr (ph. BZ). Late coastal Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers included single birds at South Padre Island, *Cameron* 3 May (ph. MBS) and Friendswood, *Galveston* 9 May (AW). A Crested Caracara e. of Crockett, *Houston* 28 Mar (TH) was just inside the Pineywoods. A Prairie Falcon was photographed at Mission, *Hidalgo* 14 Mar (TrD).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

The Greater Pewee that wintered at Bear Creek Park, *Harris* was last seen 23 Mar (JHi, GPa et al.). Notable *Empidonax* this spring were a very early Acadian Flycatcher at Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 30 Mar (MeC), a Hammond's Flycatcher at Lake Ransom Canyon, *Lubbock* 11-12 Apr (CaCr, CrCr, SCo, RR), a late Gray Flycatcher at El Paso, *El Paso* 21 May (BZ), and a rare-for-the-Panhandle Dusky Flycatcher at Amarillo, *Potter* 5 May (ph. BP). A Say's Phoebe was a nice find at El Franco Lee Park, *Harris* 1-12 Mar (SLo, AW). Dusky-capped Flycatcher was reported from several sites in the Chisos Mountains, *Brewster*, with at least 3 present 16 Apr+ (m.ob.). Brown-crested Flycatcher appears to be pushing northward, with up to 5 at Bastrop S.P., *Bastrop* 3 May+ (BF), one at Stockpen Crossing Park, *Menard* 24 May (BrS), and at least one bird returning to Austin, *Travis* 4 May (SFa). A Brown-crested Flycatcher on territory at El Paso, *El Paso* 22 May–3 Jun (ph. BZ) was the first there in many years. A Great Kiskadee was at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 13-16 Apr (ph. MiC et al.). A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher provided a first county record at Quintana, *Brazoria* 18 May (ph. SK et al.). Tropical Kingbirds again nested at Rockport, *Aransas* 14 Apr+ for the third straight year (ph. SE), and another pair was present at Pelican Island, *Galveston* (JKe et al.). Also noteworthy was a Tropical Kingbird near Uvalde, *Uvalde* 23 Apr (KR) and one in *Kleberg* 20 May (GPe). A late Couch's Kingbird lingered at Baytown Nature Center, *Harris* 7-19 May (RPo et al.). A Cassin's Kingbird was at Riverside Park, Victoria, *Victoria* 5-10 Mar (DM, JY). Rare for *Smith*, a Western Kingbird was at Camp Tyler 16 May (PB). An Eastern Kingbird was w. to El Paso, *El Paso* 8 May (ph. JiP), where the species is less than annual. A Northern Shrike lingered at Lake Meredith, *Hutchinson* through 11 Mar (ME).

A rare White-eyed Vireo was at Lubbock, *Lubbock* 20 Apr (CaC, SCo, QE). Single Bell's Vireos at Boy Scout Woods, *Galveston* 3-20 Apr (CCo et al.) and Edith Lake Moore Nature Sanctuary, *Harris* 18 Apr (SO) were excellent spring U.T.C. finds. A **Gray Vireo** at Amarillo, *Potter* 5 May (ph., CaC, BP et al.) provided an exciting first for this area. A Yellow-throated Vireo was at Balmorhea S.P., *Reeves* 24 May (MLo). Notable Cassin's Vireos were single birds at Dickens Springs, *Dickens* 21 Apr (AP, JaP), Lubbock, *Lubbock* (ph. CaC, AHe), and Amarillo, *Potter* 5 May (HT, MY). A Blue-headed Vireo found at Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary, *Harris* 17 May (DW et al.) ties the latest date for spring U.T.C. records of this species. A Hutton's Vireo s. of Christoval, *Tom Green* 29-31 Mar (KB, CF) was exceptionally far n. and w. but was out done by one at Laredo, *Webb* 19 (BN). A Yellow-green Vireo was banded in *Matagorda* 1 May (ph. GK, TGu), and another was at Quintana, *Brazoria* 18-20 May (JT et al.). Green Jay has spread northward into the s. Edwards Plateau, but documentation of nesting has been scant. Adding to the documentation was a nest found at Del Rio, *Val Verde* 18 May (EF). Unusual for the area, a Fish Crow was at the Heard Natural Science Museum, *Collin* 12-19 Apr (GG et al.). A Purple Martin was at Lajitas, *Brewster* 22 May (MLo) for a rare late spring occurrence. Tree Swallows were again at the Baytown Nature Center, *Harris* 6 May+ (GPa); breeding on the U.T.C. is still rare but is increasingly frequent. The major winter influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches resulted in many lingering well into the spring, most notably singles at Abilene S.P., *Taylor* 25 May (ph. DB, LBr) and Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 8 May (JHy). Lingering Ruby-crowned Kinglets included singles at Kleb Woods, *Harris* 11 May (KK) and El Paso, *El Paso* 21 May (BZ).

THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS

Well e. of the normal range was a Townsend's Solitaire at Palo Pinto Mountains S.P., *Palo Pinto* 18 Mar (JaS); another was at Lubbock, *Lubbock* through 2 May (KD), providing an unusual late spring record. Veeries were noted in well-above-normal numbers along the w. edge of the migration corridor in n.-cen., Texas with sightings from *Collins*, *Dallas*, *Tarrant*, and *Van Zandt* from 1 Apr through 9 May (m.ob.). More unexpected was one at Chalk Bluff Park, *Uvalde* 23-25 Apr (MHa, ph. MI). Gray-cheeked Thrushes

Over most of its range in North America, Long-eared Owl is enigmatic and little known. In Texas in spring 2013, two nests were discovered in the upper elevations of the Davis Mountains, Jeff Davis County 25-26 May (here 9 June). In the previous decade, only two nests were located statewide. *Photograph by Mark W. Lockwood.*

also put on a good showing in the e. third of the state, with many sightings w. to *Tarrant*, where 3 were found 3-16 May (JaS, DDC, DeL). The lone report from farther w. was one at Utopia, *Uvalde* 1 May (MH). A Wood Thrush at Chalk Bluff Park, *Uvalde* 25 Apr (MHa) was farther w. than expected. A Clay-colored Thrush at Refugio, *Refugio* 31 Mar–2 Apr (LLL, SCa) was well n. of the expected range. The Varied Thrush that wintered in the Christmas Mountains, *Brewster* was last seen 19 Mar (COJ). A Brown Thrasher was far w. of the breeding range at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, *El Paso* 28 May+ (JSp). A Chestnut-collared Longspur was a surprise near La Gloria, *Starr* 18 Apr (ph. SBa).

Worm-eating Warbler reports in the w. half of the state included one at Lubbock, *Lubbock* 2 May (SCo, RR) and another at Utopia, *Uvalde* 23 May (MH). An early Louisiana Waterthrush was at Lake Ransom Canyon, *Lubbock* 24 Mar (CaC, SCo), while very late migrants were noted at Nacogdoches, *Nacogdoches* 2 May (DWo) and Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 5 May (JHy, SM, HS). Golden-winged Warblers were reported more frequently than in recent years in the e. third of the state, while westerly singles were found near Uvalde, *Uvalde* 22 Apr (MHa) and at Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 6 May (AJ, NM). A Blue-winged Warbler at Arlington, *Tarrant* 22 Apr (LBu) provided a nice record, and one at Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 19 May (WS) was a very late migrant. Westerly Black-and-white Warblers included singles in n. *Hudspeth* 9 May (CSe), at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, *El Paso* 15 May (JSp), and at El Paso, *El Paso* 26-27 May (ph. JiP). An early Prothonotary Warbler was at High Island, *Galveston* 8 Mar (WB). A Tennessee Warbler was at El Paso, *El Paso* 18 Apr and a late migrant Orange-crowned Warbler there 21 May (BZ). One of the truly outstanding finds of the season was a **Colima Warbler** on the King Ranch, *Kenedy* 9 May (TLa, JSi, ph. BR)—only the second record from any location e. of the Trans-Pecos. An early Nashville Warbler was at the Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary, *Harris* 13 Mar (DSh), while a very late migrant was at Central Heights, *Nacogdoches* 23 May (DWo). A Virginia's Warbler at El Paso 3 Apr (BZ) was close to two weeks early. On the extreme e. edge of the normal migration corridor were 2 MacGillivray's Warblers in *Palo Pinto* 21 May (BF) and another at the Village Creek Drying Beds, *Tarrant* 22 May (GrC, EW). A Kentucky Warbler was seen at Lake Ransom Canyon, *Lubbock* 30 Apr–2 May (RR, SCo). Single Northern Parulas were at El Paso, *El Paso* 4 (JSp) & 22 May (ph. BZ). A Tropical Parula was n. up the coast to Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* 3 Apr (BF). A Bay-breasted Warbler at Fort Clark Springs, *Kinney* 12 May (CSe) was unusual so far west. A Blackburnian Warbler wandered to Lubbock, *Lubbock* 18 May (ph. NG), and single Chestnut-sided Warblers were likewise at Midland, *Midland* 6 & 12 May (m.ob.). Continuing the trend of warblers w. of the normal migration corridor, Blackpoll Warblers found included one at Moss Creek Park, *Dallas* 1 May (DaH), 2 at Lubbock, *Lubbock* 2-3 May (CaC, SCo, RR et al.), one at Amarillo, *Potter* 5 May (CaC, BP et al.), one at Kelley Park, *Tarrant* 4 May (MW), and one at Lake Tawakoni S.P., *Hunt* 13 May (RKi). Westward-wandering Black-throated Blue Warblers included singles at Boot Canyon, Big Bend N.P., *Brewster* 11 May (ph. RSw) and at El Paso, *El Paso* 22 May (ph. JiP). A Palm Warbler at McNary Reservoir, *Hudspeth* 5 May (ph. PSe) provided a rare county record. A Yellow-throated Warbler was at Lubbock, *Lubbock* 21-24 Apr (KL, m.ob.). Always a nice find as a lowland migrant, a Grace's Warbler was at El Paso, *El Paso* 28 Apr (ph. JiP). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was unexpected at Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 30 Mar (MeC). Rufous-capped Warblers returned to Chalk Bluff Park, *Uvalde* 20 Apr+ (TLe), with one looking and sounding like a typical ad. and the other with some odd plumage features and singing a Common Yellowthroat song, thus possibly a hybrid. One of the highlights of the season in the Hill Country was a Painted Redstart near Hunt, *Kerr* 25 May+ (CZ, RZ, ph. TGa, m.ob.).

Perhaps somewhat surprisingly, most of the records of Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers in Texas are from woodlots on the coastal prairies. That was the case with this individual that made a brief visit to Quintana, Brazoria County 18 May 2013. *Photograph by Sandy Kroeger.*

SEEDEATERS THROUGH FINCHES

Three White-collared Seedeaters along the Rio Grande at Eagle Pass, *Maverick* 13 Mar (BrC, RSm) provided more evidence of the recent northward expansion of this species. A Cassin's Sparrow was an excellent find at the Katy Prairie, *Waller* 26 Apr (BHo). Lingering sparrows on the U.T.C. included a Clay-colored Sparrow at the Katy Prairie, *Waller* 6 May (BHo), a Field Sparrow at Anahuac N.W.R., *Chambers* 13 Apr (JH et al.), and a Savannah Sparrow in *Waller* 20 May (HL). A Baird's Sparrow was heard singing near Sanford, *Hutchinson* 6 May (AB). A very late Fox Sparrow was at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, *El Paso* 29 Apr (JSp). Two Swamp Sparrows lingered at Lubbock, *Lubbock* through the very late date of 15 May (AHe, SCo, CaC). Two White-crowned Sparrows present in *Waller* 12 May (HL) provided a record-late date for the U.T.C. A cooperative **Golden-crowned Sparrow** was at Franklin Mountains S.P., *El Paso* 29 Apr–9 May (ph. BD, m.ob.); much more unexpected was one at South Padre Island, *Cameron* 17-21 May (BiS, ph. RSt, †m.ob.). A real surprise was a Slate-colored Junco on Mustang Island, *Nueces* 26 Apr (ph. DSt).

A Hepatic Tanager at Lubbock, *Lubbock* 5 May (ph. SCo, AHe) provided the fourth record for the South Plains. An early Summer Tanager was a nice find at Brazos Bend S.P., *Fort Bend* 23 Mar (BB). Scarlet Tanagers were noted in the Hill Country in above-average numbers, including one at Devils River S.N.A., *Val Verde* 18 Apr (CSh) and 2 at Chalk Bluff Park, *Uvalde* 25-29 Apr (m.ob.). Western Tanagers on the e. edge of the migration range included singles at Russ Pittman Park, *Harris* 24 Apr (MAB et al.), near Spring Branch, *Blanco* 4 May (LL), and at Lewisville Lake, *Denton* 19 May (JJ). A highlight of the season was a male **Flame-colored Tanager** at Boot Spring, Big Bend N.P., *Brewster* 6 May+ (ph. MF, m.ob.), where it paired with a female Western Tanager. The female Crimson-collared Grosbeak at the Sabal Palm Sanctuary, *Cameron* lingered until 19 May (ph. SP). A territorial male Northern Cardinal at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, *El Paso* 11 May+ (JSp) was well outside of the breeding range of the species. Black-headed Grosbeak just w. of usual included singles in *Clay* 26 Apr (DeH) and at Lake Wichita Park, *Wichita* 12 May (Scotty Lofland). Single Lazuli Buntings were noted at Lake Graham, *Young* 15 Apr (DC), Fort Worth, *Tarrant* 27 Apr (TDr), Heard Natural Science Museum, *Collin* 6 May (GG), and River Legacy Park, *Tarrant* 7 May (GrC). A pair of Varied Buntings was found at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., *Hidalgo* 14 Apr, with the male remaining through the period (MGu).

Painted Redstarts are known to wander away from breeding areas and always generate excitement when they are discovered. This adult was near Hunt, Kerr County, from 25 May (here 30 May) through the period. *Photograph by Tony Gallucci.*

A nice count of 100+ Bobolinks was made at the John Bunker Sands Wetlands, *Kaufman* 4 May (JR, GrC, m.ob.); also of note was a high count of 142 near Anahuac N.W.R., *Chambers* 8 May (DSh, JT). A very late Yellow-headed Blackbird was at San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site, *Harris* 20 May (DwL). A Rusty Blackbird was s. of Marathon at Post Park, *Brewster* 19 Apr (AHa, HT). A Bronzed Cowbird made a rare appearance at Carter Lake, *Brazos* 25 May (JHa). An early Orchard Oriole was at Lake Meredith, *Hutchinson* 7 Apr (ME). Hooded Orioles wandered northward up the coast to Galveston, *Galveston* 18-20 Mar (ph. JG, RG et al.) and Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* 15-19 Apr (BF). A pair of Altamira Orioles seen at Sacahuistale Flats, *Willacy* 19 May (MBS) was noteworthy. A Scott's Oriole made an unexpected appearance 32 km n. of Rio Grande City, *Starr* 19 Apr (ph. SBe).

Six Purple Finches at White Rock Lake, *Dallas* 6 Mar (WC) were overshadowed by a late male at South Padre Island, *Cameron* 2-4 Apr (ph. DJ et al.). Small numbers of Red Crossbills persisted from the winter incursion, including 14 in ne. *Tarrant* 2 Mar (BT) and a few at El Paso until 23 May (DAB, BZ). The Common Redpoll at Trophy Club, *Denton* remained through 13 Mar (ph. PSh). Pine Siskins lingered in large numbers through the e. half of the state; most notable were up to 300 at Nacogdoches, *Nacogdoches* 25-27 Apr (DWo).

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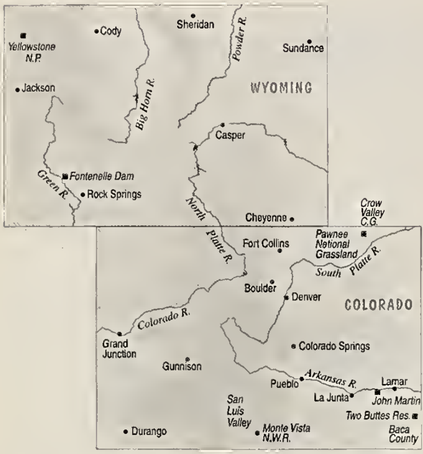
Colorado & Wyoming



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Bucking recent trends, the Bighorn, Lower Platte, South Platte, Republican, and Rio Grande drainages all experienced a cooler spring than normal, while the Yellowstone, Bear and Green, and Belle Fourche drainages in Wyoming reported a warmer spring. All other drainages were near normal, producing a Regional temperature map with no violent reddish values for the first time in recent memory. March saw near-normal temperatures nearly throughout the Region, but April was cold, with below-normal temperatures in most of the Region but well-below-normal temperatures in eastern Wyoming and northeastern Colorado. Temperatures moderated for May, with only the Rio Grande drainage colder than normal, while the Yellowstone drainage was much above normal.

Seasonal precipitation was a hodge-podge between the haves and the have-nots. Parts of northern Wyoming were wetter than normal: the Belle Fourche was much wetter than normal, but the Upper Platte (south-central Wyoming) and Arkansas (southeastern Colorado) drainages experienced a much-below-normal precipitation regime this season. All of the Upper Platte's neighboring drainages in Wyoming were drier than normal, while the Arkansas's eastern and western neighbors reported below-normal values. March was drier than normal in most of the Region, but the Republican drainage was wetter than normal. April saw near-normal precipitation amounts for much of the Region, though the Republican and Arkansas drainages were below normal, while West Slope Colorado, southeastern Wyoming, and the Snake drainage were wetter than normal. May continued near normal over much of the Region, but southeastern Colorado continued dry, as did most of eastern Wyoming, though the Powder and Belle Fourche drainages were much wetter than normal.

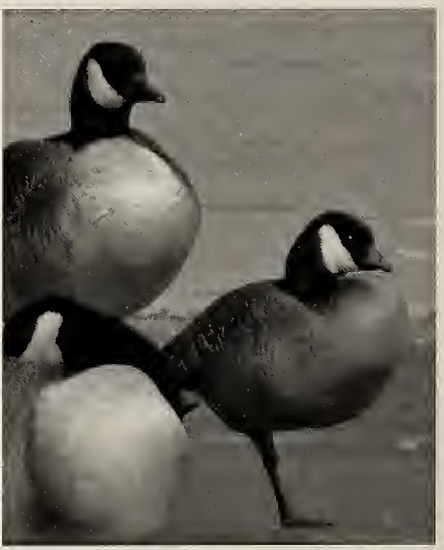
Eastern portions of both states began the season in Exceptional Drought (the most severe category), with most of the rest of the Region in Extreme Drought or Severe Drought; only the northwestern corner of Wyoming was as well off as Abnormally Dry, according to the U. S. Drought Monitor. With spring snows and rains, Wyoming sloughed off Exceptional Drought, with most of the state ending the season in just Severe Drought. Southeastern Colorado, however, saw Exceptional Drought deepen, threatening livelihoods of many resident ranchers and farmers.

Several trends were evident this season. Sparrows lingered late. Rare passerines showed up in good numbers. Wyoming entered the gull scene with its first Iceland Gull and second Great Black-backed Gull. Perhaps more dramatic, however, was the spring's Pacific Northwest flavor: Colorado's third *minima* Cackling Goose, a Eurasian Teal × Green-winged Teal (fewer than five reports for the state), its first Black Merlin, a Herring Gull × Glaucous-winged Gull, three Varied Thrushes, a fine showing of Cassin's Vireos, quadruple-the-normal Townsend's Warbler numbers, and five Golden-crowned Sparrows. It is hard to find a single reason behind this heterogeneous conglomeration of birds, but notably, this spring followed a fall and winter replete with other visitors from the Pacific Northwest (e.g., Aleutian Cackling Goose, Dusky Canada Goose, Pacific Downy Woodpecker, Hermit Warbler). This spring's list of hybrids includes waterfowl and gulls (of course), but also grebes, warblers, towhees, and orioles. This is one of the regions where the outcome of "east meets west" is dramatically demonstrated.

Abbreviations: Brett Gray (Brett Gray Ranch, *Lincoln*); Chatfield (Chatfield Reservoir and S.P., *Douglas/Jefferson*); Cherry Creek (Cherry Creek Reservoir and S.P., *Arapahoe*); Chico (Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso/Pueblo*); Crow Valley (Crow Valley campground, Pawnee National Grassland, *Weld*); Hereford Ranch (Wyoming Hereford Ranch, *Laramie*, WY); L.C.C. (Lamar Community College, *Prowers*); Plains (Colorado's e. plains); Tamarack Ranch (Tamarack Ranch State Wildlife Area, *Logan*); Two Buttes (Two Buttes S.W.A. and Reservoir, *Baca*); W.H.M.A. (Wildlife Habitat Management Area). "West Slope" denotes locations w. of the Rockies. Due to reporting biases, all locations can be assumed to be in Colorado; Wyoming locations are noted as such the first time they appear. Only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying cited records are listed. Undocumented reports from Colorado of Colorado B.R.C. (C.B.R.C.) review species (<www.cfobirds.org>) that are deemed probably correct are summarized at the end of this report. We thank Rachel Hopper for providing C.B.R.C. information.

WATERFOWL

Greater White-fronted Geese are Regionally rare after early May, so 2 at Chico, *Pueblo* 22 May (SGM, NM, BKP), where the species is rare at any time, were doubly of interest; a tardy Snow Goose was at the same site 11-22 May (BM). A Ross's Goose made for a very rare *La Plata* sighting near Durango 23 Mar (RMo, HM); there are no county records in eBird. Other out-of-place Ross's Geese included one at Monte Vista N.W.R., *Rio Grande* 2 Mar (BS, TF), as many as 4 there 12-17 Mar, and one at Gunnison, *Gunnison* 19 Apr (F. Dupont, J. Graves, AV). The 2-3 Cackling Geese at Woodruff Narrows Reservoir, *Uinta* 11 Apr–11 May (J. Whitmore) were in westernmost Wyoming, where quite rare. Colorado's third ***minima* Cackling Goose** was a spectacular find 7 Mar at Windsor Lake, *Weld* (CS, ph. SGM). Reports of Taverner's Cackling Geese were scattered across *Weld* (and in that county only) 10 Mar–3 Apr (SGM, CS), with a high count of 30 at Lower Latham Reservoir 17 Mar; one wonders what the actual Regional distribution is. Hybrid geese (most found by CS, SGM, DP) were much in evidence in the South Platte River drainage in ne. Colorado: 9 Snow × Ross's 3 Mar–24 Apr, 13 Snow × Canada 7 Mar–3 Apr, and 3 Ross's


This Cackling Goose of subspecies *minima* was at Windsor Lake, Weld County Colorado 7 March 2013; the state has just two previous records, neither recent. The population of this subspecies has declined over the past decade, but a strong flight of *minima* was observed through the Yukon in spring 2013. *Photograph by Steven G. Mlodinow.*

× Canada 16 Mar–3 Apr were among the more expected crosses. More singular were a Snow × Cackling at Woods Lake, *Weld* 20-24 Mar and a Ross's × Cackling Goose there 3 Apr (SGM, CS). Up to 2 Trumpeter Swans in the area of Loloff Reservoir, *Weld* 27 Mar–1 Apr and 2 Tundra Swans 3 Apr near LaSalle, *Weld* (SGM, CS) were the last of a minor spring influx of swans in Colorado.

Wood Ducks at odd locations included one in *Teton*, WY 12 May (JL) and 2 at Seedskadee N.W.R., *Sweetwater*, WY 15 May (T. Koerner), where rare. Male Gadwall × Mallard hybrids were noted 17 Mar and 3 Apr in sw. *Weld* (SGM, CS). Male Eurasian Wigeons were enjoyed e. of Kersey, *Weld* 20-21 Mar (CS, ph. SGM), at Cañon City, *Fremont* 29 Mar (RMi), and at Grand Junction, *Mesa* 27 Apr (C. Atwood). In Colorado, 25 of 40 accepted records are from Mar and Apr; where do they go in fall? The season saw another spate of Mexican Ducks in e. Colorado: a male at Angel Lake, *Weld* 20 Mar–3 Apr, a female at Loloff Reservoir, *Weld* 14 Apr–4 May (both SGM, CS), and one at Pueblo, *Pueblo* 7-15 Apr (BKP). A mostly Mexican Duck (it had curly uppertail coverts) was a surprise at Bauer Lake, *Montezuma* 17-19 May (TF, NKr), while other hybrids were reported from *Denver*, *Douglas*, and *Kit Carson* this spring. A Gadwall × Northern Pintail hybrid visited Boulder Reservoir, *Boulder* 24-28 Mar (DD), while male Mallard × Northern Pintail hybrids graced Woods Lake 24 Mar (CS, SGM) and McPhee Reservoir, *Montezuma* 13 Apr (CN et al.). The (presumed) returning male Blue-winged Teal × Cinnamon Teal hybrid was at Boulder, *Boulder* 28 Apr (M. Brincka), and others were noted in *Arapahoe*, *Jackson*, and *Weld* 18 Mar–15 May. The top Northern Shoveler count was 4000 at Barr Lake, *Adams* 29 Mar–18 Apr (CS), while 2500 Northern Pintails must have made a spectacular sight at Prewitt Reservoir, *Washington* (DD, C. Rurik). A Eurasian Teal × Green-winged Teal hybrid was at Beebe Draw, *Weld* 14 Apr (CS, ph. SGM); Colorado has fewer than five reports of this cross, which is most regularly reported in the Pacific Northwest.

Among the *Aythya* maxima this spring, the 762 Canvasbacks (Firestone, *Weld* 8 Mar; SGM), 4000 Redheads (Jumbo Reservoir, *Sedgwick/Logan* 17 Mar; KMD, NEl, JK), and 610 Ring-necked Ducks (Barr Lake 10 Mar; SGM, CS) provided the highlights in Colorado, while 500 Canvasbacks at Hutton Lake N.W.R., *Albany* 1 Apr (R. Harned) provided a new Wyoming maximum, and 2000 Lesser Scaup at the same locale 21 Apr (JM) was the Regional season's high count. Single-digit counts are the norm for Greater Scaup during spring in Colorado (with some surprising exceptions), so 32 at Firestone, *Weld* 8 Mar (SGM) was exceptional; one at Stalker Lake, *Yuma* 20 May was about three weeks tardy (GW, SL). In Wyoming, at least 10 Greater Scaup graced Meeboer Lake, *Albany* in late Mar (JM, SB), and 8 visited Blake's Pond, *Albany* 7 Apr (M. Jones). A male Redhead × scaup visited Firestone 27 Mar (CS, SGM), while a Ring-necked Duck × Lesser Scaup graced Firestone 1 Mar (CS), and another was at Chico, *Pueblo* 22 May (SGM, NM, BKP). A female Long-tailed Duck from winter stayed at Frederick, *Weld* through at least 7 Apr (m.ob.). A male Bufflehead × Common Goldeneye entertained a tour group at Walden Reservoir, *Jackson* 12 Apr (MO'B et al.). Rare in the very sw. corner of the Region in *Montezuma*, 12 Barrow's Goldeneyes at Dolores 12 Apr (M. Boswell, TD, BK) and 4 the next day at McPhee Reservoir (CN et al.) were found by visiting birders in this large and underbirded county. Another beautiful hybrid duck, a male Common Goldeneye × Hooded Merganser, was in sw. *Weld* 20 Apr (SGM).

GROUSE THROUGH HAWKS

The 240 Greater Sage-Grouse in *Moffat* 31 Mar (Geraldine King, Tom Feild et al.) made a fine total for the Conservation Colorado outing. While the wintering Red-throated Loon at Pueblo Reservoir, *Pueblo* stayed through 2 Mar (BKP), a rare spring migrant partially in breeding plumage was at Cherry Creek 19-21 Apr (ph. GW). The season saw all three versions of Pacific Loon in Colorado. The wintering bird at Pueblo Reservoir matriculated until 12 Mar (BKP); a migrant (quite rare in spring) dropped in on Brush Hollow Reservoir, *Fremont* (in the foothills, where the species is rare at any time) 10 Apr (BKP); and a bird that would wind up summering arrived at Big Johnson Reservoir, *El Paso* 20 May (NM). Common Loons were found in decent numbers this season, with the Regional maximum in Wyoming, as usual: 50 at Woodruff Narrows Reservoir 27 Apr (G. Ballew). In a season with goodly numbers of late-lingering birds, the latest Horned Grebe was, oddly, on a pond at Chico, *Pueblo* through 27 May (BM). The 2 Red-necked Grebes found in winter at Firestone stayed deep into spring, with the last bird seen 3 May (m.ob.); this apparently mated pair departed only after construction work began at "their" pond. Another Red-necked was in Wyoming at Curt Gowdy S.P., *Laramie* 6-10 May (BG, MG). Single Western Grebe × Clark's Grebe hybrids were noted at seven locations (6 in *Weld*, one in *Boulder*) 3 Apr–21 May (SGM, CS, DD, P. Burke). Clark's Grebes put on a record showing in Wyoming, with one at Ocean Lake, *Fremont* 2 Apr (DeN) record early by 10 days and a new maximum of 10 being recorded thrice, once each in *Albany*, *Laramie*, and *Uinta* (26-30 Apr; *fide* MF). The 2 documented Neotropic Cormorants of the season were both in sw. *Weld*: an ad. 14 Apr (CS, SGM) and an ad. 15 May (NM, ph. SGM).

Records of Krider's Red-tailed Hawk have increased sharply in eastern Colorado over the past two to three years. This adult was near Union Reservoir, Weld County 4 May 2013, one of four in spring 2013. *Photograph by Steven G. Mlodinow.*

An American White Pelican found on Lake Hattie Reservoir, *Albany* 26 Mar (JM, SB) was record early in Wyoming by four days. At odd locations were single American Bitterns in *Eagle* 10 May (J. Riggle) and in a suburban *Larimer* yard 21 May (SW). Great Egrets found w. of the Plains, where rare, included singles in *Saguache*, *Montrose*, *La Plata*, *Chaffee*, and *Mesa*, with 2 at Craig, *Moffat* 13 May+ (FL), whereas the one at Hereford Ranch 28 Apr (DeN) provided the sole seasonal record for this Wyoming rarity. A Green Heron at MacFarlane Reservoir, *Jackson* 22 May (T. Smart, CH, C. Mathis) was in the mountains, where quite rare. With the delisting of Glossy Ibis as a Colorado review species, it is difficult to separate the documented wheat from the *Plegadis* chaff, which may include both misidentified hybrid ibis and White-faced Ibis. Some 22 Glossies were reported from 21 locations (16 Apr–27 May), the only duo being at Flagler Reservoir 24 Apr (SGM, CS) and the only West Slope bird being at Navajo Reservoir, *Archuleta* 28 Apr (JDB). Single hybrid ibis were described from Firestone 3-8 May (SGM), Wiley, *Prowers* 11 May (SGM, DD), and near Greeley, *Weld* 28 May (SGM).

Fourteen Ospreys were noted at Lathrop S.P., *Huerfano* 14 Apr (JR et al.), a site surprisingly rich in the species during migration. Northern Goshawks on the Plains, where rare, included a juv. in *Broomfield* 25 Mar (D. Faulkner) and an early-Apr ad. at Colorado Springs (MP). For Colorado, the count of 161 Bald Eagles at North Sterling Reservoir, *Logan* 3 Mar (SGM, CS, DD) was very high. An ad. Common Black-Hawk soaring over Hotchkiss, *Delta* 5 May (†J. Beason) would provide just the eleventh accepted record from Colorado, sixth on the West Slope. This observer was responsible for the ninth accepted record (in 2009), which came from the same location, an area lightly birded and one that just might harbor breeding black-hawks. In an incredibly good spring for Colorado, more than 115 Broad-winged Hawks were reported 17 Apr+ from 23 e. counties; 14 were noted in se. Wyoming 1-20 May. A Harlan's Hawk was two weeks late 15 May in *Lincoln* (GW), while an incredible 4 Krider's Red-tailed Hawks were found, with singles in *Otero* 7 Apr (MO'B et al.), at Longmont, *Boulder* 12 Apr–2 May (BG), at Union Reservoir, *Weld* 4 May (ph. SGM), and near Platteville, *Weld* 19 May (ph. SGM). An incredibly late season for Rough-legged Hawk included at least 16 in Colorado after 20 Apr (the typical last-seen-by date) culminating in a bird seen by many at Genoa, *Lincoln* 3 May. Wyoming one-upped Colorado, scoring a Rough-legged Hawk 4 May at McDonald Reservoir, *Natrona* (B. Walgren).

SA This year, a cadre of Laramie birders carefully worked the gull spots of the Laramie Plains Lakes, producing many records of note. The action started 16 Mar with Wyoming's first **Iceland Gull** (JM, ph. SB). Two days later, Wyoming's twelfth (and third spring) **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, an ad., was at Meeboer Lake (ph. SB); the bird remained through 3 Apr. On 19 Mar, an observer thought he had re-located the Lesser Black-backed Gull—only to discover that he had found Wyoming's third **Great Black-backed Gull** (DJ, ph. SB)! This bird remained until 22 Mar. On 21 Mar, Wyoming's seventh spring Glaucous Gull, a second-cycle bird, joined the fun (ph. SB) and wandered the lake system until 30 Apr. Finally, on 28 Mar, Wyoming's seventh (and first in spring) **Thayer's Gull**, a first-cycle bird, graced Meeboer Lake (SB, DJ, JM), remaining until 7 Apr. When all was said and done, Wyoming had a ten-gull spring!

CRANES THROUGH TERNS

Sandhill Cranes were quite late in May in e. Colorado near LaSalle, *Weld* (SGM) and in *Pueblo* 11 May (*fide* D. Silverman). American Golden-Plover is rare in the Region in spring, so singles in *Kiowa* 20 Apr (DD) and *Weld* 26 Apr (JK, KMD, NM, CL) were of interest, while one at Table Mountain W.H.M.A., *Goshen* 25 May (DJ) added to about a dozen spring reports for Wyoming. Snowy Plovers are rare in the Region away from the few breeding sites, so West Slope birds at Nucla, *Montrose* 14 Apr (CD, ph. BW) and in *Archuleta* 28 Apr (JDB) were surprises. The 3 Semipalmated Plovers at Pastorius Reservoir 2 May (JDB) made for a new *La Plata* max. Black-necked Stilts (up to 4 per site) were somewhat out of place at six West Slope sites. The 87 Whimbrels at Lower Latham Reservoir, *Weld* 4 May (SGM) comprised the largest of 30 Colorado flocks reported 19 Apr–31 May. Early Colorado dates were registered for Sanderling (17 Apr), Baird's Sandpiper (21 Mar), Least Sandpiper (31 Mar), Semipalmated Sandpiper (24 Apr), and Western Sandpiper (16 Apr). Colorado also enjoyed an excellent season for Dunlin, with a seasonal record of eight reports of 10 birds, starting with 2 at and near McIntosh Reservoir, *Boulder* 30 Mar–2 May (CC). Two more were at Union Reservoir, *Weld* 31 Mar (CS, SGM), and the remaining 6 were scattered singles in *Bent*, *Boulder*, *Kiowa*, *Otero*, *Weld*, and *Yuma* 8 Apr–11 May. Long-billed Dowitcher also made news with a near-record-early individual 9 Mar in sw. *Weld* (SGM), while the 1250 at John Martin Reservoir, *Bent* 10 May (SGM, DD) provided for not only an incredibly high spring number but for a record count among the data reposed in eBird; most shorebird counts peak in fall, when reservoirs are typically low, migration is more leisurely, and juvs. augment the flocks.

Two ad. hooded gulls were the cream of the seasonal Colorado gull crop. A **Little Gull** at Lake Meredith, *Crowley* 7 Apr (MO'B, B. Gibbons et al.) was just Colorado's fifth outside the Jul–Dec timeframe. A **Sabine's Gull** at Union Reservoir, *Weld* 21 May (SGM) was nearly unprecedented Regionally in spring but was preceded this year by Wyoming's first-ever spring **Sabine's Gull**, an ad. at Ray Lake Marsh, *Fremont* 5 May (DeN); there are past Apr records from Colorado in 1975 and 1983. Bonaparte's Gulls are much more numerous Regionally in fall than in spring, so gatherings of 110 near Windsor, *Weld* 28 Apr (SGM, DD) and 41 at Meeboer Lake 25 Apr (CH) were impressive counts for Colorado and Wyoming, respectively. One was two weeks late at Cherry Creek 31 May (GW). An ad. Laughing Gull was a Regional one-of-a-kind this season at Lower Latham Reservoir, *Weld* 17 May (CC, SW).

Single Mew Gulls were noted at four Colorado locations (4 Mar–29 Apr), with ads. in *Arapahoe*, *Boulder*, and *Larimer*, plus a first-cycle bird in *Weld* on the last date. The maxima of larger gulls all came from Colorado: 7500 Ring-billed and 850 California 20 Apr at Black Hollow Reservoir, *Weld* and 665 Herring at Cherry Creek 10 Mar (SGM, CS). A second-cycle **Herring Gull × Glaucous-winged Gull** hybrid was noted at Black Hollow Reservoir 16 Mar (SGM, DP) and again eight days later not far away at Drake Lake (SGM, CS). Thayer's Gull numbers were again high, with several double-digit counts leading the way: 12 at Cherry Creek 10 Mar and 10 at Windsor Lake, *Weld* 20 Mar (SGM, CS). Few Thayer's Gulls remain past mid-Apr, so the 2, along with 2 Lesser Black-backeds, at Black Hollow Reservoir 4 May (SGM, CS) were late. Single Iceland Gulls were seen at Cherry Creek 7 Mar–11 Apr (ph. GW), near LaSalle, *Weld* 31 Mar (ph. SGM, CS), and at Black Hollow Reservoir 3 Apr (SGM). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were noted at Cherry Creek through 27 Apr, with a high count of 12 there 10 Mar (SGM, CS). As many as 3 Glaucous Gulls were appreciated at Cherry Creek through 10 Apr; a small bird, possibly *barrovianus*, was at Stewarts Pond in sw. *Weld* 30-31 Mar, and a third-cycle bird was approximately three weeks late 20 Apr at Windsor Lake (SGM, CS). Great Black-backed Gulls were noted at North Sterling Reservoir 3 Mar (SGM, CS, DD); at Drake Lake and Windsor Reservoir, *Weld* 24 Mar (SGM, CS), with possibly the same bird at Horseshoe Reservoir, *Larimer* 17 Apr (NKr, CC); and in sw. *Weld* 18 Apr (CS).

Two Least Terns were at Lake Hasty, *Bent* 19 May (GP), and one was on the other side of the dam on John Martin Reservoir, *Bent* the next day (DuN), providing the latest arrival in Nelson's 20 years of efforts on the species there. The only one away from breeding locales was on the West Slope at Grand Junction 29 May (L. Stigen). Included in this season's goodly Caspian Tern total of 10 (9 Apr–29 May) was one on the West Slope at Fruitgrowers Reservoir, *Delta* 22-28 Apr (JW) and another in the mountains at Walden Reservoir, *Jackson* 24-26 Apr (NKr). Common Terns are uncommon in the Region in spring and usually arrive after mid-May; thus very early were the ad. in sw. *Weld* 27 Apr (SGM) and 5 at Cherry Creek 1-2 May (ph. GW, LK). In Wyoming, 2 were at Table Mountain W.H.M.A., *Goshen* 16 May (JM) and 2 at Hereford Ranch, *Albany* 18 May (WS).

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

White-winged Doves are rapidly becoming expected in Colorado but are still rare in Wyoming, where 2 in *Albany* and one in *Laramie* 1-19 May were found (*fide* MF). The first Flammulated Owl detected this year was on the Grand Mesa, *Mesa* 23 Apr (JW); actual arrival dates for this species are, for the most part, unknown. A Great Gray Owl was extralimital near Lander, *Fremont*, WY 30 Apr (JA). Of four Wyoming Black-chinned Hummingbird reports, one was from *Uinta*, where expected, but three were from unusual locations, including one in *Fremont* 11 May (JA), record early by four days. The other singles were in *Teton* 21 May (K. Michael) and *Johnson* 24 May (MG). Though Calliope Hummingbird breeds not too far away in sw. Wyoming, it is a very rare spring migrant in Colorado. A male Calliope at Boulder 3-5 May (ph. D. Waltman) provided one of very few firm spring records.

The wintering Red-headed Woodpecker at Florence, *Fremont* stayed until at least 11 Apr (D. Ely), while the wintering female Acorn Woodpecker at Colorado Springs stayed through at least 20 Apr, and the pair at Beulah, *Pueblo* was present through the season (m.ob.). An ad. Red-headed Woodpecker in *Boulder* 5 May (BK) was w. of normal, while a one-day-wonder female Acorn Woodpecker, far from the only known Regional colony, visited a Franktown, *Douglas* yard 24 May (H. & K. Dressel, ph. HK). Wyoming's ninth Red-bellied Woodpecker (and second in spring) was a male found 3 May at Laramie, *Albany* (GL). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is primarily a fall migrant and wintering bird in Colorado, and then primarily near the plains/mountains interface. Thus, single spring migrants on the plains in n. *Crowley* 29 Mar (DM) and at Two Buttes 30 Mar (KMD, JDu, MP, DM) were of interest, while a female at Paonia, *Delta* 21-25 Apr (JB) provided just the third spring West Slope record. Joining the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Two Buttes was the season's first Red-naped Sapsucker (KMD, JDu, MP, DM), which was also far e. of normal. Also on the Plains were Yellow-bellied/Red-naped Sapsuckers at Last Chance, *Washington* 28 Apr (GW) and in *Cheyenne*, WY 11 May (KMD et al.). The Rocky Mountain Downy Woopecker found at Lamar, *Prowers* 17 Feb (ph. DR) was last noted 3 Mar. A Rockies Hairy Woodpecker was late and far e. in ne. *Bent* 10 May (DD, SGM). A Black Merlin (*F. c. suckleyi*), likely Colorado's first, was nicely photographed near Chatfield 21 Apr (GW, LK); another, or the same bird, was noted some 80 km to the n. at Union Reservoir, *Weld* 23 Apr (ph. CS). A Merlin was late 11 May at Two Buttes (JS, JT).

A singing Eastern Wood-Pewee graced Julesburg, *Sedgwick* 26 May (ph. SGM, DD); Colorado has 26 accepted records, half of them in the period 12 May–1 Jun. Colorado's seventh **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** sang along a shelterbelt n. of Wray, *Yuma* 25 May (ph. SGM); half of the previous records occurred in the window 20-28 May. Apparent Eastern Willow Flycatchers were detected at Sand Draw S.W.A., *Sedgwick* 26 May (SGM, DD) and at Fremont River Park, *Fremont* 1 Jun (SGM, DM, MP); the status of Eastern Willow Flycatcher in Colorado has not been well defined, though multiple sight and banding records exist. One might expect it to occur occasionally, as it breeds into se. Alberta. Rare for the West Slope, a Least Flycatcher returned for its third consecutive spring/summer to Collbran, *Mesa* 26 May (NKe, m.ob.). Gray Flycatchers, annual in small numbers on the Plains, were noted at Crow Valley 11 May (DAL) and Chico, *Pueblo* 20 May (BKP, BM). Cordilleran Flycatchers are barely annual during spring on the e. half of the Plains; singles were noted at Wray 16 May (SGM, NM) and Ovid, *Sedgwick* 26 May (SGM, DD). Eight Black Phoebes at Uravan, *Montrose* 15 Mar (BW, CD) were about three weeks early, while 19 in the vicinity of Nucla 27 Mar (CD, BW) likely set a Colorado maximum. Other Black Phoebe records of note included a nesting pair at Billy Creek Bridge 16 May (JB), a first for *Ouray*, and 2 along Higbee Rd., *Otero* 29 Mar (KMD, JDu). Eastern Phoebes seem to be consolidating their range in Colorado eastward from the Front Range foothills. One in the adjacent mountains, where still rare, was near Rice Mountain, *Fremont* 27 Apr (MP, DM), at ca. 2750 m elevation. A Say's Phoebe at Seven Mile Lake, *Albany* 19 Mar (DJ) was record early for Wyoming by 11 days.

An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Powell, *Park*, WY 13 May (D. Rach) was considerably n. of expected range; one was ne. of range at Holyoke, *Phillips* 25 May (ph. SGM). Great Crested Flycatchers are not annual away from ne. Colorado during spring, so one at Chico, *Pueblo* 24 May (BKP et al.) was noteworthy. Cassin's Kingbirds again showed well away from breeding areas, mostly 23-28 May, with a peak of 3 at Gunbarrel, *Boulder* 23 May (CN). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was near Holly, *Prowers* 13 Apr (AV), while another frequented the Last Chance, *Washington* area 24 May+ (GW, KMD); the state has about 25 records, most from mid-Apr into mid-Jun.

SHRIKES THROUGH KINGLETS

Single Loggerhead Shrikes were reported in distantly separated locations 17 (GL) & 29 May (MG) from Grand Teton N.P., *Teton*, where very rare. A Northern Shrike at Tantra Lake, *Boulder* 19 Apr (CN) was about three weeks tardy. Four White-eyed Vireos were detected in Colorado this spring, about average, with 3 scattered temporally at L.C.C. 8-30 Apr (C. Teuton, DAL); the last was at Burlington, *Kit Carson* 19 May (DM et al.). Notably, the first was about two and a half weeks early. A tally of 15 Bell's Vireos at Tamarack Ranch 26 May (SGM, DD) was among the highest ever in Colorado, albeit from one of the more reliable places for that species. A **Gray Vireo** in a juniper at Holyoke Cemetery, *Phillips* 25 May (SGM) had found the right tree in the wrong place. This species is very much tied to piñon-juniper habitats of the West Slope and southernmost Colorado; vagrants away from breeding areas are nearly unprecedented. Five Colorado Yellow-throated Vireos this spring, 10-31 May, was above the norm of 3-4, with records coming from *Bent*, *Prowers*, *El Paso*, *Pueblo*, and *Larimer*, while a **Yellow-throated Vireo** at Hereford Ranch 29 May (TF) was Wyoming's seventh. The 12 Cassin's Vireos this spring follows upon the heels of last fall's epic incursion; nonetheless, this spring was not as unusual as it may have seemed, as 12 were recorded in spring 2008, with 9 during spring 2010. Eastern Warbling Vireos were again well documented as far w. as the Front Range in *Boulder* (TF); more surprising was a Western Warbling Vireo in the far se. corner of the state at Tempel Grove, *Bent* 2 Jun (SGM, DM, MP). These vireos can be very difficult to distinguish; audio recordings of song are typically required for verification. Three Philadelphia Vireos were found in Colorado this spring, about average: one at Two Buttes 10 May (GW) was joined by a second the next day (m.ob.); the third was at Lyons, *Boulder* 24 May (ph. CS). Out-of-range corvids included a Pinyon Jay reported 26 May at Yellowstone N.P., *Teton* (MG), where considered accidental, and a Common Raven 27 May in *Crook* (GL), where rare. A well-described Chihuahuan Raven

Prior to the massive fall incursion of 2012, Colorado averaged fewer than three Philadelphia Vireos per year. Three in spring 2013 was about double the norm and included this individual at Lyons, Boulder County on 24 May 2013. *Photograph by Cathy Sheeter.*

was at Cherry Creek 19 Mar (DD). The true status and distribution of this species in Colorado is still debated.

Some 25,000 Horned Larks were estimated between Sterling, *Logan* and Pierce, *Weld* 15 Apr (R. Koes). Two **Purple Martins** of the nominate subspecies, almost undocumented in Colorado, were near Lamar, *Prowers* 1 May (ph. JS); the species is not annual in e. Colorado. A Tree Swallow at Meeboer Lake 16 Mar (DJ) was record early in Wyoming by a day. Though Violet-green Swallows do wander a short distance out onto the Plains during spring, one at Flagler Reservoir was unusually far e. 18 May (NM, SGM). Some of the more impressive swallow tallies this spring included 6000 Tree Swallows at Totten Reservoir, *Montezuma* 13 Apr (JDB, JR, CN, TD); 3000 Violet-green Swallows at Union Reservoir, *Weld* 8 May (SGM); and 2506 Cliff Swallows at Bear Creek Lake Park, *Jefferson* 11 May (MH). Two Juniper Titmice near 3200 m at Wildernest, *Summit* 21 Mar (K. & R. Kassouf) were away from this species' usual low-elevation haunts. Remnants of this winter's irruption of Mountain Chickadees onto the Plains persisted well into Apr; one n. of Greeley, *Weld* apparently paired with a Black-capped Chickadee (NEn, SGM, NM) but was not seen after 15 May. Mountain Chickadees are very rare in the Black Hills, so 2 in *Crook* 25 May (Gabriel Leite) were of interest. The autumn 2012 influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches across the Plains was followed by a sharp dropoff that led to well-below-normal numbers in winter. This spring was typical for the species on the Plains, with a relatively low frequency of sightings followed by a pulse of northbound birds that spanned May before dropping to near nil for the summer (eBird). An Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch near the Front Range foothills at Golden Ponds, *Boulder* 14 May (SGM) was about a month tardy. Montane White-breasted Nuthatches wandered eastward as far as Lamar 14 Mar (D. Russell) and Oxbow S.W.A., *Otero* 21 Apr (DD); perhaps more surprising was one carrying food into a tree cavity at Kodak S.W.A., *Weld* 15 May (SGM), a location near the w. edge of breeding range of Eastern White-breasted. Two Pygmy Nuthatches visited Pueblo City Park, *Pueblo* 12-16 Apr (BKP), away from their usual montane haunts. A Brown Creeper n. of Greeley, *Weld* 18 May (NEn) was among the latest ever on the Plains. Four Winter Wrens for the season was about par, with late birds at L.C.C. 12 May (SGM, DD) and Crow Valley 19 May (SGM). A Carolina Wren lingered at L.C.C. throughout the spring; a **Carolina Wren** at Hereford Ranch 29 May (TF) was remarkably Wyoming's second. The easternmost Western Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were detected at Wray 5-25 May (SGM); the only report of an Eastern came from Stalker Lake, *Yuma* 18 May (SGM). The range of Eastern Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Colorado is poorly known, with the first documented breeding record coming from Bonny Reservoir, *Yuma* last spring. Golden-crowned Kinglets are not annual during spring in the e. portions of the Plains, so 3 at Yuma, *Yuma* 16 Mar (DM) and one at Two Buttes 2 Mar (J. Calhoun) were noteworthy.

THRUSHES THROUGH LONGSPURS

Eastern Bluebirds are unusual anywhere in Wyoming outside of *Crook*, so reports from Laramie, *Albany* 16 & 25 May (J. Backstrom, JM) were interesting. Two Western Bluebirds were near Platteville, *Weld* 25 Apr (CS); this species is casual on the Plains. This spring was an excellent one for Mountain Bluebird, punctuated by 500 along Barrett Rd., *El Paso* 10 Mar (J. Henderson, M. Rhodes) and 1200, associated with a late snowstorm, at Chatfield 1 May (CL). A Townsend's Solitaire at Crow Valley 28 May (SGM, DD) was about three weeks tardy. This spring's 11 reports of 13 Gray-cheeked Thrushes, 1-22 May, was more than four times the norm. Three Swainson's Thrushes that appeared to be of the Russet-backed (*ustulatus*) subspecies group were reported: at Two Buttes 11 May (†SGM, MP, GW), Tempel Grove, ne. *Bent* 12 May (†SGM, DD), and Crow Valley 28 May (†SGM, DD). A tally of 155 Swainson's Thrushes at Crow Valley 28 May (SGM, DD) was the season's high. Three counts of 30 Hermit Thrushes were received: from Bear Creek Lake Park, *Jefferson* 2 May (C. Aid), Chico, *El Paso* 4 May (C. Goulart), and Brett Gray 15 May (D. Beatty). Hermit Thrushes of the nominate subspecies were reported from seven locations, 27 Mar–11 May, with a peak of 3 at Veteran's Park, *Adams* 18 Apr (CS). Colorado averages about three Wood Thrushes per spring, but this year, the species went undetected. The first during spring since at least 2008, single Varied Thrushes were at Fort Collins, *Larimer* 10-31 Mar (m.ob.), Denver 12 Mar (G. Ferris), and Englewood, *Arapahoe* 13 Apr (ph. GW).

A Gray Catbird in Apple Valley, *Boulder* 11 Mar (J. Such) had likely wintered somewhere nearby undetected, as the first migrants typically do not arrive until early May; another at Edness Kimball Wilkins S.P., *Natrona* 11 May (A. Hines) tied Wyoming's record-early date. A concentration of 20 Gray Catbirds at Brett Gray 18 May (GW, DM, SL) made an exceptional tally away from breeding locations. A Sage Thrasher at Tamarack Ranch 7 Mar (N. Lewis) was two weeks early, especially for the Plains. An American Pipit at North Sterling Reservoir 3 Mar (SGM, CS, DD) was either a month early or a very rare wintering bird on the n. Colorado Plains. The rhapsody of Bohemian Waxwings continued well into the spring, with flocks of 500+ at Fort Collins 14-26 Mar (DAL, B. Hill) and 400 in Rocky Mountain N.P., *Larimer* 28 Apr (BG), Colorado's last report for the spring.

A **Lapland Longspur** near Crawford, *Montrose* 8 Apr (D. Garrison) was the first ever reported in spring on the West Slope. Nearly as rare was a Lapland in se. Colorado at Thurston Reservoir, *Prowers* 24 Apr (JS) that was about six weeks late for anywhere in the state. A congregation of 800 Chestnut-collared Longspurs along the edge of US-385 near Wray 9 Apr (E. Morel, P. Mulligan, T. Zinneman, J. Sziebert) likely set a record for Colorado. Two McCown's Longspurs grounded by a snowstorm near Steamboat Springs 17 Apr (C. Dodson, TL) yielded *Routt*'s first record. This mid-Apr snowstorm also grounded large numbers of McCown's along the Front Range, where usually quite scarce, including an impressive 73 near Panama Reservoir, *Boulder* 16 Apr (BS).

WARBLERS

A goodly 35 species of warblers were detected in Colorado this spring (Table 1). Single Blue-winged Warblers brightened L.C.C. 28 Apr–4 May (m.ob.) and Chico, *El Paso* 16 May (GW), while 3 Golden-winged Warblers were detected in *Yuma*: a female (SGM, NM) and a male (MP, DM, BKP, KC) at Stalker Lake 18 May and a male at Wray 25 May (ph. SGM). Black-and-white Warblers at Medano-Zapata Ranch Reserve, *Alamosa* 14-23 May (L. Pitcher), near Salida, *Chaffee* 20 May (SY), and at Estes Park, *Larimer* 23 May (CC, SW) were in the mountains, where this species is barely annual. A Prothonotary Warbler near Livermore, *Larimer* 25 May (H. & R. Knight, ph. DAL) was seasonally unique, while a Tennessee Warbler at Lathrop S.P., *Huerfano* 14 Apr (m.ob.) was about three weeks early. Lucy's Warblers returned to their one reliable Regional outpost, Yellowjacket Canyon, *Montezuma* 13 Apr+, with a maximum of 5 recorded on that first day (m.ob.). Two Lucy's were detected downstream from Yellowjacket in McElmo Canyon, *Montezuma* 19 May (JV, L. Holzman). Virginia's Warblers wandered out onto the Plains at approximately thrice their normal rate, 28 Apr–26 May (eBird), with high counts of 5 at Chico, *Pueblo* 16 May (GW) and 3 at Brett Gray 5 May (JDr). A tally of 13 MacGillivray's Warblers at Chico, *El Paso/Pueblo* 22 May exceeds any spring tally for Colorado in eBird (SGM, NM, BKP). A Mourning Warbler was detected at Brett Gray 18 May (GW, DM, †BKP, SL); this species is barely annual, usually in fall. A Kentucky Warbler enlivened Chico, *Pueblo* 19 May (RH), while a Common Yellowthroat at Narrows Dam, *Morgan* 13 Mar (SGM, CS) was either six weeks early or had wintered locally; this species is casual during late winter on the Plains.

Cape May Warbler is not quite annual in Colorado, so 4 this spring certainly was a surprise. One graced Two Buttes 10-11 May (ph. GW, SL, KMD), another visited Hale Ponds, *Yuma* 21 May (ph. GW, SL), while 2 more brightened Chico, *Pueblo* 22-24 May (ph. SGM, ph. BKP, NM). A Bay-breasted Warbler near Fort Lyon 16 May (DuN, ph. JT, JS) furnished *Bent's* first record; this species is barely annual in Colorado. An astonishing 7 Blackburnian Warblers visited Colorado this spring, 5-25 May, well above the average of 2 per spring; singles on the West Slope, where accidental, were at La Plata, *La Plata* 6-12 May (RMo) and Hotchkiss, *Delta* 9 May (A. Robinsong). Two of this spring's Chestnut-sided Warblers and a Blackpoll Warbler were in the mountains, where not regular: a Chestnut-sided in Rocky Mountain N.P., *Larimer* 27 May (D. Beltz) and a Chestnut-sided 29 May and a Blackpoll 14 May at DeWeese Reservoir, *Custer* (both RMi). A Palm Warbler at Pastorius Reservoir 10 May (HM, RMo) was on the West Slope, where rare. A Yellow-throated Warbler inhabited Two Buttes 4-5 May (GW et al.). Black-throated Gray Warblers wandered onto the Front Range and Colorado Plains in exceptional numbers, about thrice the norm (eBird). Townsend's Warblers are fairly common during fall migration in Colorado but rather uncommon during spring; this spring, Colorado more than quadrupled its usual share (eBird). A male **Black-throated Green Warbler × Townsend's Warbler** hybrid at Two Buttes 10-11 May (ph. GW) was one of the season's biggest surprises; it resembled a Black-throated Green, but its cheek patch was nearly solid olive, and its undertail coverts were moderately streaked in black. A Black-throated Green Warbler was at Two Buttes 10-11 May (ph. NKr), another was at Tantra Lake, *Boulder* 12 May (CN, m.ob.), and 2 were at Chatfield, *Jefferson* 15 May (GP). Wilson's Warblers showed poorly in Colorado this spring, at about two-thirds usual abundance (eBird). The total of 15 Yellow-breasted Chats tallied at Tamarack Ranch 26 May (SGM, DD) was perhaps record high for the Plains, where the species is a scarce migrant and somewhat local breeder.

In Wyoming, warblers of interest included a Black-and-white Warbler 29 Apr at Lion's Park, *Laramie* (WS) for the state's third earliest arrival; a second was there 17 May (MG, BG). Single Tennessee Warblers visited Hereford Ranch 29 May (TF) and Saratoga, *Carbon* 30 May (LG), while an ad. male Hooded Warbler at Great America, *Sweetwater* 19 May–3 Jun (Matt Gould) provided Wyoming's twenty-sixth. Five American Redstart reports from four counties spanned 27-31 May. Single Northern Parulas graced Hereford Ranch 20 May (DJ) and Laramie 24 May (BG, MG). An estimated 100 Yellow Warblers at Hereford Ranch 24 May (DJ) made for a high count. Cheyenne hosted a Chestnut-sided Warbler 17 (MG, BG, WS) & 24 May (DJ). Single Blackpoll Warblers were at Hereford Ranch 11 & 24 May (GL) and at Cheyenne 18 May (DJ). A Black-throated Blue Warbler at Cheyenne 18 May (CM) added to only about a dozen spring reports. A Palm Warbler in Laramie 12 May (JM) was unique, while two reports of 2 Townsend's Warblers each from the Fontanelle Trap, *Lincoln* (DJ) and *Fremont* (L. Richardson) 15 May added to about a dozen previous spring reports.

In spring 2013, four Cape May Warblers were photographed in Colorado, which barely averages one per year. This female was found at Bonny State Wildlife Area, Yuma County 21 May 2013. *Photograph by Glenn Walbek.*

This Blue-winged Warbler brightened Lamar Community College, Prowers County, Colorado from 28 April through 4 May 2013 (here). Colorado averages about one per spring. *Photograph by Glenn Walbek.*

This male Mourning Warbler inhabited Brett Gray Ranch, Lincoln County, Colorado on 18 May 2013. The species is reported almost annually in Colorado. *Photograph by Glenn Walbek.*

SPARROWS

Green-tailed Towhees were unusually widespread on the Plains this spring, occurring at about 150% of their usual frequency (eBird). A congregation of 24 Spotted Towhees at Flagler Reservoir 12 May (SGM, DD) was unusual for the e. portion of the Plains. Increased attention to towhees on the Plains has led to increased reporting of suspected Spotted Towhee × Eastern Towhee hybrids, with 21 reported this spring. An Eastern Towhee was at Tamarack Ranch 26 May (†SGM, DD); the species is not reported annually in spring in the state.

American Tree Sparrows usually have largely departed Colorado by 1 Apr and are typically very rare after 15 Apr. This spring, many lingered until nearly the end of Apr, with 4 at Flagler Reservoir 24 Apr (SGM, CS) being especially late and one at North Shields Pond, *Larimer* 26 Apr the latest overall (D. Wade). The species was also tardy in Wyoming, where it is rare by mid-Apr, with one in *Laramie* 24 Apr (WS). A major movement of sparrows through se. Colorado 10-11 May yielded the following tallies from ne. *Bent* 10 May: 1750 Chipping, 300 Clay-colored, 1500 Lark, and 300 White-crowned (SGM, DD). Field Sparrow, a local breeder and uncommon migrant in far e. Colorado, is rare farther west. One at Oxbow S.W.A., *Otero* 11 May was somewhat w. of usual (BK); one at Franktown, *Douglas* 14-15 May (HK, U. Kingery) was along the Front Range, where casual. Vesper Sparrows usually arrive in the first week of Apr, but this spring, several were noted on the West Slope in mid-Mar, including one at Norwood, *San Miguel* 17 Mar (G. Steele) and one at Nucla 19 Mar (CD, BW). A Lark Sparrow at L.C.C. 7 Apr was about two weeks early (G. Davis). Three stray Sagebrush Sparrows were detected this spring, about average: singles were near Foothills Reservoir, *Boulder* 13 Mar (P. Piombino, JV), Bear Creek Lake Park, *Jefferson* 16-18 Apr (MH), and n. of the species' range on the West Slope at Legacy Ranch, *Routt* 24 Mar (TL). A Lark Bunting graced Grand Junction 8 May (B. Moston); this species is rare on the West Slope, where peak occurrence is during the latter half of May. A Savannah Sparrow at Nucla 10 Mar (CD, BW) was more than three weeks early, whereas 2 at Cheyenne 29 Mar were record early in Wyoming by 10 days (MG).

A Slate-colored Fox Sparrow visited No Name, *Garfield* 20-23 Mar (TM); another was in the foothills, e. of usual range, at Red Rocks Park, *Jefferson* 23 Mar–4 May (MH); Slate-coloreds normally arrive in Colorado in mid-Apr. Lincoln's Sparrows at Panama Reservoir, *Boulder* 6 Mar (SGM) and at the Durango Fish Hatchery, *La Plata* 9 Mar (RMo) were two to three weeks early. Swamp Sparrows are rarely reported after early Feb; this spring, 20 were noted, including late birds at Rock Creek, *Boulder* 18 May (C. Labio) and at Bluff Lake, *Denver* 26 May (J. Haycraft). Four White-throated Sparrows at Narrows Dam, *Morgan* 13 Mar (CS, SGM) had undoubtedly wintered locally; the first migrants typically appear in mid-Apr. Two White-throated Sparrows were at Cheyenne 17 May (CM), and 3 were at Saratoga, WY 19 May (LG). Also in Wyoming, single Harris's Sparrows were at Powell 22 Mar–5 May (*fide* MF), at Hudson, *Fremont* 26 Mar (DeN), and in *Albany* 4-12 May (M. Dillon). Dark-lored White-crowned Sparrows appeared on the Plains late Apr–mid-May, just overlapping the peak occurrence of *oriantha* in the mountains or on the West Slope, again suggesting that the birds on the Plains are largely *leucophrys*; the maximum was of 5 near Lamar 25 Apr (JS). Five Golden-crowned Sparrows were found in Colorado this spring, with wintering birds lingering through 30 Mar at Two Buttes, 23 Apr at Teller Farms, *Boulder*, and 2 May at Red Rocks Park; apparent migrants were noted near Nucla 27 Apr (CD) and near Lamar 9-13 May (JS).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Hepatic Tanager brightened Chico, *Pueblo* 19 May (RH), that locale's third. Away from this species' limited breeding range, Colorado averages about one record every two to three years, the majority of which are 10-20 May. This spring's showing of 24 Summer Tanagers, 4-31 May, was excellent, though it was a bit below last spring's 30. Notable sightings were from the West Slope, where this species is rare, including one near Rotary Park, *La Plata* 8 May (K. Seiffert); one at Yellowjacket Canyon 17-19 May (JDr), where the species is thought to breed (though with no definitive evidence); and 2 at McElmo Canyon 17-19 May (D. Elwonger). Wyoming's eighth spring Scarlet Tanager was at Hereford Ranch 18 May (BG). A Scarlet Tanager visited Valdez, *Las Animas* 26 May (P. Tennery); Colorado averages one or 2 per spring. Western Tanagers are uncommon spring migrants on the Plains, usually occurring as ones or twos; 6 at Wray 18 May (SGM, NM) was most unusual, just a few km from the Kansas border. Northern Cardinal numbers appear to be increasing in e. Colorado. The frequency of reporting on the Colorado Plains was up about 50% and abundance roughly double that of the preceding five years (eBird). Reflecting this increase were counts of 26 at Tamarack Ranch 26 May (SGM, DD), 9 at Stalker Lake, *Yuma* 18 May (SGM, NM), and 5 at Bonny Reservoir 11 May (NEl), all representing a rather stark increase over numbers five years ago. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are rare on Colorado's West Slope, where 5 were found, 8-23 May, in *Montrose*, *Delta*, and *Moffat*; Wyoming had 7 total from five counties 6-26 May. Thirty Lazuli Buntings at Riverside Park, *Morgan* 16 May (EK) may well be record high for the Plains. Wyoming's 3 Indigo Buntings were in *Laramie* and *Albany* 20-25 May. Four Painted Buntings this spring was about twice the average, with singles at Brett Gray 18 May (DM), Bonny Reservoir 20 May (GW, SL), Chico, *El Paso* 23 May (m.ob.), and Cottonwood Canyon, *Baca* 26-28 May (TM, K. McConnell, D. Filby, D. Landau). Notably, only one of these was from se. Colorado, the subregion from which most records emanate.

SA Dark-eyed Juncos dawdled longer than usual this spring in Colorado. Typically, the frequency of Dark-eyed Junco sightings (all subspecies included) is just above 20% during the first week of Apr, dropping to 12% by the third week of Apr, and to 7-8% range by the first week of May, remaining at that level throughout the month (eBird). During the spring of 2013, the frequency was 22% during the first week of Apr and was still at 22% during the first week of May, not dropping to the 7-8% range until the second week of May (eBird).

Gray-headed Juncos breed in Colorado's Rocky Mountains, so some juncos are present in the state all summer. However, a look at eBird range maps show that Slate-colored, Oregon, and Pink-sided have each mostly migrated to their nesting areas in w. North America by May—except for an island of lingering juncos in Colorado's mountains and foothills (eBird). This is not true for the Plains, where juncos are rare in May. This year, however, a number of tardy juncos were encountered on the Plains, reflecting what was seen in the state as a whole. eBird has few Plains records of May Slate-colored Juncos, most from this spring. The farthest afield (or, away from the mountains) were singles at Thompson Ranch, *Lincoln* 1 May (DM) and at Crow Valley 4 May (M. Mezger, L. Steadman). Similarly, two of the very few eBird May records of Oregon Junco on the Plains came this spring, including one at Banner Lakes S.W.A., *Weld* 22 May (CS). Also, three such Plains records of Pink-sided Junco were from this spring, all during the first week. Gray-headed Junco, which breeds in Colorado, is usually quite rare on the Plains in spring, with fewer than 5 per spring being typical. This spring, 22 were reported, mostly 18 Apr–22 May, a fairly typical date span. Finally, White-winged Juncos usually move fairly rapidly from their wintering grounds (mostly in the Colorado mountains/foothills) to their Black Hills breeding territories. Records from the far e. Plains are thus scarce; three of five eBird spring records from this subregion came from this spring, with singles at Stalker Lake 16 Mar (DM), Tempel Grove 30 Mar (SGM, DD), and Flagler Reservoir 30 Mar (SGM, DD). Additionally, a White-winged at Colorado Springs, *El Paso* 29 Apr (M. Wolf) was a goodly two weeks tardy. Among these lingering birds, there were two reports of Oregon × Pink-sided, one of Pink-sided × White-winged, and four of Pink-sided × Gray-headed, one of those at Last Chance very late on 25 May (TF).

Single Bobolinks 19 May at Fox Ranch, *Yuma* (BKP, KC) and s. of Yuma, *Yuma* (EK) were far out on the Colorado Plains, where rare. This species is also generally rare in the mountains away from the few breeding locales there, but 3 were at Salida, *Chaffee* 19 May (SY), and the species was found for the third consecutive year at Estes Park, *Larimer*, a single bird 22 May (J. Nelson). Finally, on the West Slope, one was at Montezuma, *Montezuma* 19 May (NKe). Rusty Blackbirds occur in Colorado primarily as fall migrants and winterers. By early spring, most have departed, so this spring's 11 birds at eight locations was extraordinary and included late individuals at Stalker Lake, *Yuma* 5 May (SGM) and near Lamar 14 May (JS). Wyoming's burgeoning Great-tailed Grackle population was represented by at least 20 birds in *Laramie* 29 Mar+, with up to 7 in the Laramie Lakes Basin, *Albany* 22 Apr–28 May (*fide* MF) and 2 in *Natrona* 7 May (BW). The arrival date of 29 Mar was record early (Mark Gorges). A male **Bronzed Cowbird** was w. of Springfield, *Baca* 8 May (J. Dennis); the other documented Colorado record comes from the Front Range at Lakewood, *Jefferson* May–Jun 1990 (C.B.R.C.). Orchard Orioles were unusually abundant in e. Colorado this spring, occurring at approximately 150% normal frequency (eBird), highlighted by two high tallies: 52 at Tamarack Ranch 26 May (SGM, DD) and 31 at Stalker Lake 25 May (SGM). One at Vail, *Eagle* 15 May (CP) was in the mountains, where accidental. Nearly 30 Bullock's Oriole × Baltimore Oriole hybrids were reported this spring; the high count was of 6 at Wray 25 May (SGM), and the most notable was one at Vail, *Eagle* 15 May (ph. CP). Three Scott's Orioles were found at Big Gypsum Valley 27 May (CD, BW), furnishing *San Miguel*'s third record; the species likely breeds at this location.

Table 1. Spring 2013 records of selected warbler species.

Species	Spring 2013	Recent Spring Average[1]	Date range[2]
Ovenbird[3]	20	12	3-30 May
Worm-eating Warbler	0	4	n/a
Northern Waterthrush	75	20	5-27 May
Blue-winged Warbler	2	1-2	28 Apr–16 May
Golden-winged Warbler	3	1-2	18-25 May
Black-and-white Warbler	25+	12	28 Apr–26 May
Prothonotary Warbler	1	2	25 May
Tennessee Warbler	11	5	14 Apr–24 May
Nashville Warbler	37	9	30 Apr–28 May
Mourning Warbler	2	<1	18-24 May
Kentucky Warbler	1	1-2	19 May
Hooded Warbler	7	10	1-26 May
American Redstart	53	30	9-31 May
Cape May Warbler	4	<1	10-22 May
Northern Parula	24	20	23 Apr–9 Jun
Magnolia Warbler	7	7	18-23 May
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	1	16 May
Blackburnian Warbler	7	2	5-25 May
Chestnut-sided Warbler	8	8	8-29 May
Blackpoll Warbler	34	15	22 Apr–28 May
Black-throated Blue Warbler	3	3	4-18 May
Palm Warbler	14	8	21 Apr–19 May
Pine Warbler	0	1	n/a
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	1-2	4 May
Black-throated Green Warbler	4	4	10-15 May
Canada Warbler	0	<1	n/a

[1] Recent spring average is estimated.
[2] Date range is the range of first dates of detections of individuals.
[3] Ovenbird count excludes foothills breeders.

Rosy-finches tarried, with 10 Gray-crowneds at Wildernest, *Summit* 14 May (K. Ecton) being about three weeks tardy, while one at Atlantic City, *Fremont* 12 May (J. McDonald) was unusually tardy, even for n. Wyoming. A Black Rosy-Finch at Gunnison, *Gunnison* 1 May (D. Corpora) was about two weeks late. Although there is only a single spring report of Brown-capped Rosy-Finch from Wyoming, this may reflect effort versus a true absence of these birds in traditional areas during this season. This year, up to 7 were noted at Centennial, *Albany* 15-17 Mar (m.ob.), while another single was at Buford, *Laramie* 17 Mar (JM, SB). The only Regional reports of White-winged Crossbill came from Yellowstone Lake, *Park*, WY 12 May (JL) and along the Dolores River, *Montezuma* 19 May (TF). Last winter's Common Redpoll invasion occupied much of Wyoming and n. Colorado well into the spring, with the last of 29 Wyoming reports coming from Hudson, *Fremont* 4 May (DeN) and the last of the host of Colorado reports was from Stove Prairie, *Larimer* 11 May (C. Sullivan); in a more typical year, these dates would be considered about six weeks late. The largest Colorado concentration was a breathtaking 325 at Steamboat Springs, *Routt* 11 Apr (TL). **Hoary Redpolls** lingered into spring as well, with 3 at North Sterling Reservoir 3 Mar (ph. SGM, ph. CS, DD). Prior to 29 Dec 2012, Colorado had zero records of this species. The low winter Pine Siskin numbers on the Plains persisted until the first half of May, when a brief pulse appears to have passed through (eBird); more typically, steady spring numbers persist through the first half of May, then drop precipitously thereafter; a congregation of 52 at Wray 25 May (SGM) was quite unusual for such a late date on the Plains. Two Evening Grosbeaks at Holyoke, *Phillips* 25 May (SGM) were on the Plains, where casual. Notably, many of the few spring records from the Plains have been during May, when they are taking advantage of Siberian Elm mast.

Undocumented rarities: The following review species were reported from Colorado without documentation: Neotropic Cormorant (*Bent*); Zone-tailed Hawk (*Bent*); Hudsonian Godwit (*Prowers*, *Weld*); Arctic Tern (*Weld*), Lesser Nighthawk (*Montrose*), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Prowers*), Alder Flycatcher (*Kit Carson*), Gray-cheeked Thrush (2 in *Baca*, 3 in *Prowers*, *Bent*), Mourning Warbler (*Bent*); Cerulean Warbler (*Denver*); Eastern Towhee (*Baca*), Black-chinned Sparrow (*Mesa*), Golden-crowned Sparrow (*La Plata*), Purple Finch (*Douglas*, *Yuma*), Hoary Redpoll (*Routt*).

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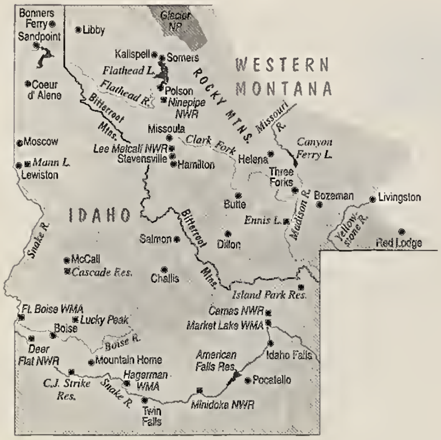
Idaho & Western Montana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Sandpoint
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WESTERN MONTANA
Coeur d' Alene
Flathead R.
Polson
Ninepipe NWR
ROCKY MTNS.
Bitterroot Mtns.
Missouri R.
Missoula
Moscow
Lee Metcalf NWR
Stevensville
Hamilton
Clark Fork
Helena
Canyon Ferry L.
Mann L.
Lewiston
Three Forks
Bozeman
Livingston
Butte
IDAHO
Ennis L.
Madison R.
Yellowstone R.
Salmon
Bitterroot Mtns.
Dillon
Red Lodge
Snake R.
McCall
Cascade Res.
Challis
Island Park Res.
Ft. Boise WMA
Lucky Peak
Boise
Camas NWR
Market Lake WMA
Boise R.
Deer Flat NWR
Mountain Home
American Falls Res.
Idaho Falls
Hagerman WMA
Pocatello
C.J. Strike Res.
Snake R.
Twin Falls
Minidoka NWR

David Trochlell

Spring 2013 weather was relatively mild throughout the entire season. In general, bird migration was uneventful but did include some notable early arrivals and late departures. As usual, Idaho's Camas National Wildlife Refuge and nearby Market Lake Wildlife Management Area hosted a considerable numbers of migrants in May, and these included a first state record. The season will likely be best remembered for some exciting rarities, especially Montana and the Region's first Baikal Teal.

WATERFOWL THROUGH SHRIKES

With only four antecedents in Idaho, a **Bewick's Swan** was an exciting find at Mann Lake 4 Mar (TG). An excellent total of 20 Eurasian Wigeons was reported, with most near Somers, MT in mid-Mar (DC). The celebrated bird of the season was a male **Baikal Teal** w. of Missoula 28 Apr–14 May (ph. RI) that garnered a first record for Montana and the Region. Both states reported **Eurasian Teal**: one in *Kootenai* 10 Mar (†KB, LH) was Idaho's fourth, and one in *Flathead*, MT 21 Apr (ph. DC) represented Montana's second record. Especially rare in spring was a pair of White-winged Scoters at Mann Lake, ID 18 May (JH).

Out-of-range Great Egrets showed up at Montana locations near Livingston 19 Apr (SD) and at Emigrant 5 May (MH). Always rare in w. Montana, 2 White-faced Ibis were near Kalispell, MT 26 May (JCo). Scarce Broad-winged Hawks showed well in May, with one near Deer Lodge, MT 17 May (GS), 4 at Camas 25-27 May (ph., JC, DCl), and one at Bozeman, MT 26 May (GK).

Idaho's seventh **Snowy Plover** stopped in *Owyhee* 20-21 Apr (ph., †DL). Unexpected in n. Idaho was a Willet at Mann Lake 13 May (JH). Rare Whimbrels made surprising appearances in both states: singles were reported near Challis, ID 6 May (ph. D&EF), in *Lake*, MT 12 May (BR), at Somers, MT 17 May (ph, SR), and in *Fremont*, ID 22 May (2 birds; CW). Unexpected in spring was a Stilt Sandpiper in *Fremont*, ID 19 May (CW). Red-necked Phalaropes came through in surprisingly large numbers, with 600 at Market Lake W.M.A., ID and 400 at Roberts, ID 19 May (CW), plus 160 at Ennis Lake, MT 30 May (BM). Representing only the second spring record for n. Idaho were 2 Sabine's Gulls at Lewiston 3 May (JH). The only Mew Gull reported was at Somers, MT 3 Mar (DC). An Iceland Gull present near Lewiston, ID since 18 Feb was last reported 12 Mar (CL). Especially notable was a Glaucous Gull near Coeur d'Alene, ID 15 Mar (JC); the species is not annual in spring. Record early in Montana by six days was a Caspian Tern at Ennis Lake 1 Apr (SK).

Idaho's most notable bird of the season was a **Chimney Swift** identified at Market Lake W.M.A. 27 May (ph., †JC); if accepted, it will provide the Gem State's first record. An Anna's Hummingbird in *Bannock* 6 May (†AA) will be Idaho's twenty-fifth record and a first for se. Idaho. The only reported Gyrfalcon was near Charlo, MT 11 Mar (BR). An **Eastern Phoebe** that stopped at Boise 24-29 May (ph., †SH) furnished Idaho's eighth verified record and the first in six years. The latest ever for Montana were 2 Northern Shrikes n. of Livingston 24 Apr (FR).

JAYS THROUGH FINCHES

A Blue Jay was especially notable in *Jefferson*, ID 18-25 May (SB), where there are few precedents. Pacific Wrens fledged 4 young in Boise 17 May (ph. HW), representing the first verified breeding record in sw. Idaho. A Northern Mockingbird in *Kootenai*, ID 21 May (KB, LH) provided the fifth county record and the first report in 17 years. A wayward Sage Thrasher was a great find at Lee Metcalf N.W.R., MT 3 May (ph. KL). Idaho's third **Chestnut-collared Longspur** was documented in Garden Valley 3 May (ph., †LH). An **Ovenbird** was a sensation in *Jefferson* 26-27 May (ph. BD); there are three previously accepted records in Idaho. Two Chestnut-sided Warblers came through Camas N.W.R. 30 May (ph. KS); there are 14 previously accepted records in Idaho. The only Blackpoll Warbler of the season was at Livingston, MT 25 May (MHu). If accepted, a **Clay-colored Sparrow** at Salmon 19 May (†HW) will make Idaho's eighth record. Very surprising was a Lark Bunting at Bozeman, MT 21 May (RW). Montana's twentieth Scarlet Tanager graced Dillon 30-31 May (GS).

Seven Rose-breasted Grosbeaks represented an excellent spring tally. Indigo Buntings, not annual, showed up in both states. Two were at Whitehall, MT 28-29 May (NL), and one was in *Blaine*, ID 4-21 May (ph., †KC). A pair of rare Rusty Blackbirds was a great find near Belgrade, MT 5 Mar (ph. SD). **Great-tailed Grackles** made news in both states. One stopped at Dillon, MT 8 Mar–8 Apr (JK) to garner Montana's fourth record, and another in *Fremont* 18 May (ph. CF) was far n. of known breeding locations in Idaho. An **Orchard Oriole** was a sensational find in *Jefferson* 11-12 May (ph., †BD) and will provide Idaho's second record. If accepted, a **Purple Finch** at Howe 18 May (†JC) will represent Idaho's eighth record and a first for Latilong 20. A flock of 6 White-winged Crossbills at Bozeman, MT 3-4 Mar (KeS) was surprising for sw. Montana. Setting a local late record was a Common Redpoll near Gardiner 11 May (TO). Perhaps more evidence of Lesser Goldfinch range expansion was one at Dillon, MT 19 May (ph. EW).

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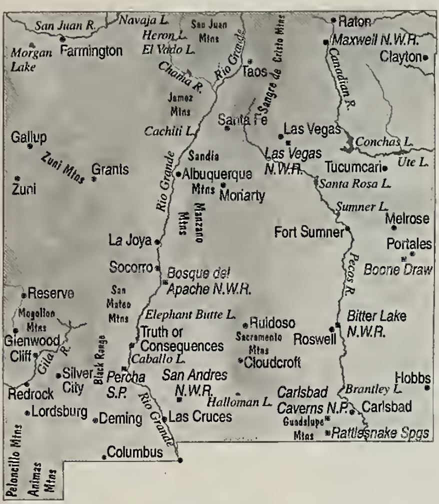
New Mexico


San Juan R.
Navaja L.
San Juan Mtns
Heron L.
El Vado L.
Raton
Maxwell N.W.R.
Clayton
Morgan Lake
Farmington
Chama R.
Rio Grande
Taos
Sangre de Cristo Mtns
Canadian R.
Jemez Mtns
Santa Fe
Cachiti L.
Las Vegas
Conchas L.
Gallup
Zuni Mtns
Grants
Zuni
Sandia Mtns
Albuquerque
Las Vegas N.W.R.
Tucumcari
Ute L.
Santa Rosa L.
Moriarty
Rio Grande
Manzano Mtns
Sumner L.
Melrose
Fort Sumner
Portales
La Joya
Boone Draw
Socorro
Bosque del Apache N.W.R.
Pecos R.
Reserve
San Mateo Mtns
Elephant Butte L.
Mogollon Mtns
Ruidoso
Bitter Lake N.W.R.
Glenwood
Truth or Consequences
Sacramento Mtns
Roswell
Cliff
Caballo L.
Cloudcroft
Gila R.
Black Range
Silver City
Percha S.P.
San Andres N.W.R.
Hobbs
Redrock
Halloman L.
Carlsbad Caverns N.P.
Brantley L.
Carlsbad
Lordsburg
Deming
Rio Grande
Las Cruces
Guadalupe Mtns
Rattlesnake Spgs
Columbus
Peloncillo Mtns
Animas Mtns

Sartor O. Williams III

Spring 2013 was characterized by continued drought over most of New Mexico, and by unusually (even by New Mexico standards) windy conditions that continued through May. Temperatures were above normal but punctuated by sharp cold snaps that negatively affected both migrant and resident birds. Numbers of many typically common species seemed much depressed, causing concern that another poor nesting season was in the offing. In contrast, however, several typically rare vagrants, particularly some warblers, were found in unprecedented numbers. Thanks to Bill Howe and John Parmeter for proofreading this report.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.); Bosque (Bosque del Apache N.W.R.); E.B.L. (Elephant Butte Lake); N.R.T. (n. *Roosevelt* migrant trap w. of Melrose); R.G.N.C. (Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque); R.G.V. (Rio Grande Valley); R.S. (Rattlesnake Springs and vicinity, including adjacent Washington Ranch, *Eddy*); V.D.O. (Valle del Oro N.W.R., Albuquerque)

WATERFOWL THROUGH HAWKS

Twenty Mexican Ducks, most of them paired, were at the Columbus treatment ponds 28 May (SOW), and a pair was on the Gila River Middle Fork, *Catron* 15 Apr (SOW); farther north, one or 2 were at Albuquerque 11 May (ph. NH), Bluewater Lake 3 Mar (CR, ph. NH), and Chama 11 May (WH). A Surf Scoter at Acomita Lake 17 Apr (KS) furnished a *Cibola* first. Last of the winter's **Barrow's Goldeneyes** were 3 on the Rio Grande near Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo 10 Mar (JF). Owing to continued drought, quail numbers statewide continued much depressed, with both Scaled and Gambel's reported as scarce or very rare, while Northern Bobwhites appears to have disappeared from many of their e. strongholds. Meanwhile, owing to low numbers of birds, the annual Lesser Prairie-Chicken Festival at Milnesand was cancelled. Surprisingly late was a bright **Red-necked Grebe** at Heron Lake 11 May (ph. WH). Neotropic Cormorant continued to appear n. of traditional areas, including a high 24 at Albuquerque 5 Apr (DH), singles at Corrales 18 May (WH) and Española 27 May (ph. BF), plus one to 2 at each of two Clovis locales Apr–May (JEP, JO, ph. DW). Eight active Double-crested Cormorant nests were at Abiquiu Lake 22 Apr (K. Eagleson), and at least five active Great Blue Heron nests were at Chama 11 May (WH). A Snowy Egret at B.L.N.W.R. 1 Mar (JEP) had wintered locally. Scarce in recent years, single ad. Little Blue Herons were at Bosque 21-24 Apr (A. & D. Brockway, ph. JS) and again 9-14 May (m.ob., ph. JJ) and at Sevilleta N.W.R. 15 May (AT, JT). A Tricolored Heron lingered at Leasburg S.P. 27 Apr–13 May (ph. CG, m.ob., ph.); elsewhere, singles were at E.B.L. 1 May (ph. DC) and B.L.N.W.R. 23-26 Apr (G. Beauprez, JEP). Single dark-morph **Reddish Egrets** put in appearances at Six Mile Dam 17 Mar and 6 Apr (ph. RN) and at E.B.L. 24 May (ph. DC). Several Glossy Ibis passed through Bosque, where one to 2 were seen on multiple dates 18 Apr–11 May (m.ob., ph.); elsewhere, singles were n. in the R.G.V. to Luis Lopez 23 Apr (ph. JO) and Albuquerque's V.D.O. 22-23 May (NP, m.ob.) and e. to B.L.N.W.R. 27 Apr (ph. RN). Single Glossy Ibis × White-faced Ibis hybrids were identified at Zuni 27 May (JAT) and V.D.O. 22 May (NP, MH). Ospreys away from core breeding areas included a pair at a Fenton Lake nest 14 Apr (ph. P. Johnson) and another pair at a nest below Cochiti Dam 31 Mar (WH). Common Black-Hawks continued to populate the R.G.V., with reports from Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo (JF), Algodones (J. McPhee), Alameda (A. Greene), V.D.O. (MH), Isleta Pueblo (m.ob.), Bosque (GF), and Leasburg S.P. (ph. CG). Broad-winged Hawks were much in evidence from the R.G.V. eastward, with often multiple reports from at least 13 sites in seven counties 2 Apr–23 May. Two active Gray Hawk nests were documented in oaks in the s. Peloncillo Mountains 11-12 May (ph. DG). Notably early, a Zone-tailed Hawk was at Mesilla Park 18 Mar (C. Benkman); far ne. of expected, another at Clayton Lake 18 May (ph. MB, NP) provided a *Union* first. Lingering from the winter invasion, late Rough-legged Hawks were singles at Portales 25 Mar (LS), E.B.L. 27 Mar (DC), Luis Lopez 12-14 Apr (JEP, ph. JS, JO), and Otto, *Santa Fe* 7-15 Apr (ph. RC).

PLOVERS THROUGH TERNS

A Black-bellied Plover was exceptionally early at Brantley Lake 5 Apr (ph. RN). A color-banded **Piping Plover** at Brantley Lake 4 May (JEP, ph. MB, ph. NP, ph. RN) had been banded as a chick on the Missouri River near Yankton, South Dakota in Jun 2012; it provided only the ninth New Mexico record. American Avocets at E.B.L. peaked at 616 on 19 Apr (DC); other high counts included 150 at Holloman Lake 12 Apr (DK, JR) and 207 at B.L.N.W.R. 1 May (FA); 30 at Zuni 27 May (JAT) and 15 at Columbus 28 May (SOW) were likely breeding birds. Willets in unusual circumstances were 17 circling over Silver City 27 Apr (MB, CR) and 15 on a desert road at Kirtland A.F.B. 16 May (JEP). An impressive **Whimbrel** season found a *Bernalillo* first at R.G.N.C. 1 May (ph. C. Smith) plus 2 at Brantley Lake 13 Apr (ph. NH) and one there 5 May (m.ob., ph.), up to 3 at E.B.L. 12-17 May (ph. DC), and singles at Morgan Lake 30 Apr (CB), B.L.N.W.R. 5 May (ph. MB, ph. NP, JEP), Bosque 8 May (ph. JO), and Otto, *Santa Fe* 17 May (BF, WE). Perhaps the word that Long-billed Curlew is a protected species has yet to reach *Eddy*, where 3 were found shot at Lake Avalon 7 Apr (RN) and enforcement of such laws is reportedly lax (*fide* SW). A record **Hudsonian Godwit** season found one at B.L.N.W.R. 5-7 May (ph. MB, ph. NP, JEP), 2 at Morgan Lake 7 May (CB), and 3 at Lake Avalon 17 May (ph. E. Pierce). A **Ruddy Turnstone** at Morgan Lake 9 May (ph. TR) furnished the second record for *San Juan*. Semipalmated Sandpipers occurred in above- average numbers in e. areas 26 Apr–31 May; high counts included 8 each at Clovis 9 May (JEP) and Brantley Lake 5 May (JEP) and 14 at B.L.N.W.R. 5 May (NP). Northbound White-rumped Sandpipers began to arrive 10 May and continued through the month, with reports from Conchas Lake, Ute Lake, Sumner Lake, Clovis, and E.B.L., plus a *Cibola* first one at Acomita Lake 26 May

Now annual in southern New Mexico, breeding Gray Hawks have recently spread up into the southern Peloncillo Mountains, Hidalgo County, where this female was nesting in an oak 11 May 2013. *Photograph by David J. Griffin.*

An impressive Hudsonian Godwit season in New Mexico found six individuals at three locales, including this one at Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Chaves County 5-7 (here 5) May 2013. *Photograph by Nicholas D. Pederson.*

(CR) and a *Lincoln* first 2 at Carrizozo 19 May (JO). Surprisingly early was a Stilt Sandpiper detailed at B.L.N.W.R. 20 Mar (J. Sanchez); an impressive 150 were at the Clovis treatment ponds 16 May (WWe). The marshes and wet meadows about Chama are dependable breeding locales for Wilson's Snipe; on 11 May, 21 were winnowing or vocalizing along the highway s. of Chama (WH). Some 1482 Wilson's Phalaropes were tallied at E.B.L. 10 May (DC). A good spring flight of Red-necked Phalaropes through the R.G.V. 1-24 May produced reports from Cochiti Lake (ph. WH), R.G.N.C. (m.ob., ph. NH), Bosque (m.ob., ph. JJ), E.B.L. (DC), and Caballo Lake (DC); noteworthy for *Lincoln* were 2 at Carrizozo 19 May (JO). A first-cycle **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Sumner Lake 6 May (JEP) provided a *De Baca* first; another first-cycle was in the E.B.L. area 26 Apr–29 May (RV, MH, ph. CW, ph. DC). Least Terns were decidedly scarce in breeding areas in *Chaves* and *Eddy*; wandering Leasts were singles at Jal Lake 9-11 May (MR, ph. P. McCasland) and Carrizozo 19 May (JO). A Caspian Tern at 2630 m on Monte Verde Lake near Angel Fire 4 May (C. Beidleman) established an elevational record for the state; other singles were at Morgan Lake 30 Apr (ph. CB), E.B.L. 28 Apr–1 May (MH, RV, DC), Caballo Lake 28 Apr (NP), and Brantley Lake 13 Apr (ph. NH). Three **Arctic Terns** visited Morgan Lake 6 May (CB).

PIGEONS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

Perhaps reflecting poor food resources in the mountains, single Band-tailed Pigeons were in the R.G.V. at Bosque 6 Apr (DH) and Sunland Park 13 Apr (JNP); others were at feeders, including 30 n. of Kingston 25 May (DC) and 2 at Silver City 6 May (EH). Inca Dove has become scarce in recent years; among the few reports from n. of historical core areas were one at Albuquerque 17 May (ph. D. Ginter), 6 at Roswell in May (R. Larsen), and one at Kingston 7 Apr (DG). A pair of Common Ground-Doves successfully nested near Radium Springs, producing 2 fledglings by 27 May (MS, ph. JZ). Following a brief but deep cold snap, an emaciated Flammulated Owl fell from a tree at Cochiti Lake 19 Apr and soon died (M. Watson). Elf Owls were notably scarce in Guadalupe Canyon, where only 3 were detected on evening and pre-dawn searches 10-11 May (SOW, PM). Burrowing Owls continued scarce statewide; at Kirtland A.F.B., only two pairs were found 25 Apr (C. Finley), where there had been 52 pairs in 1999. Up to 4 Long-eared Owls were roosting at the Jal cemetery 1 & 28 Mar (JEP, SW). A Lesser Nighthawk at La Union 1 Apr (DB) was the earliest ever there. Also early was a vocal Common Poorwill in s. *Sierra* 21 Mar (ph. DS). Far n. was a Mexican Whip-poor-will singing w. of El Vado Lake 12 May (DS). Chimney Swifts were w. to Albuquerque, with up to 2 at R.G.N.C. 10-12 May (DH, ph. DK) and one at Tingley bosque 11 May (ph. NH); other *Chaetura* swifts in the R.G.V. were singles at La Cienega 16 May (JB) and at Broad Canyon Ranch n. of Radium Springs 9 May (MS). A Blue-throated Hummingbird in lower Clanton Canyon oaks 11 May (R. Drewien) provided the lone report, as did an Anna's in Post Office Canyon 3-6 Apr (CL); noteworthy for the 2365 m elevation was a male Black-chinned at Chama 10 May (WH). Broad-billed tends to be the "Mexican" hummingbird that strays most widely; a male provided a *Socorro* first at Escondida 4-7 May (ph. SL, ph. NH).

A male **Elegant Trogon** that wandered to Palomas Canyon, *Sierra* 27 Apr (J. Murphy) was likely a spring overshoot; a female at Post Office Canyon 22 May (CL) suggested continued summering in the Peloncillo Mountains. The Lewis's Woodpecker that wintered in the R.S. area was last seen 5 May (m.ob.); a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** that wintered there continued through 13 Apr (ph. NH) and was last reported 3 May (RN). The Acorn Woodpecker that wandered e. to Clovis was last seen 22 Mar (ph. W. Anderson). Notably late was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at N.R.T. 17 May (JEP, JO). A very late Merlin was reported on the prairie at Otto 11 May (JB). Greater Pewees considerably n. of expected range were one singing in upper Water Canyon 19-31 May (WE, m.ob., ph.), only the second for the Magdalena Mountains, and another singing in West Red Canyon 30 May (SM), a first for the San Mateo Mountains; both continued into Jun. Scarce w. of the prairies, single Least Flycatchers were reported at Albuquerque 23 May (MH) and n. of Radium Springs 11 May (MS). Buff-breasted Flycatchers again occupied the Animas Mountains, where 3 were seen 11 May (JJ, RV). An Eastern Phoebe was singing at Albuquerque's Alameda bridge 6-11 Apr (NH, CH, MH), where the species nested in 2012; noteworthy was one at Mesilla Dam 13 May (BO). Only one Thick-billed Kingbird was detected in Guadalupe Canyon 11 May (SOW, PM), where the species has declined noticeably in recent years. An Eastern Kingbird was s. in the R.G.V. to Albuquerque 22 May (ph. JJ).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS

Records of **White-eyed Vireos** continue to increase, with singles at Ned Houk Park, *Curry* 10 May (JEP, ph. JO), Elephant Butte 20

Common Ground-Dove occurs across southern New Mexico, but confirmed breeding records are few. This female with two very recently fledged juveniles was near Radium Springs, Doña Ana County 27 May 2013. *Photograph by James E. Zabriskie.*

S A The historical "rule" that Rufous Hummingbirds do not occur as spring migrants in New Mexico has been effectively overturned in recent years, and spring 2013 saw the continuation of this new paradigm. At least 22 passed through Post Office Canyon 20 Mar–21 Apr, including a peak of 4 on 6 Apr (CL); farther e., 5 individuals passed through the Radium Springs area 31 Mar–25 Apr (MS, JZ), single males were at La Union 23 Mar (ph. DB) and 11 Apr (DB), at Leasburg S.P. 4 May (DG), n. of Kingston 10 Apr (ph. DC), and at Deming 28 Apr (LM), and a male and female were at Luis Lopez 15 Apr (ph. JO). Calliope Hummingbirds, also historically absent in spring, have followed a similar pattern, this season with singles in Post Office Canyon 30 Mar and 16 Apr (CL) and Deming 20 Apr and 10 May (LM) and 2 at Spring Canyon S.P. 11 May (LM).

May (DC), and the Maljamar Rest Area 9 May (MR, *fide* MB). Bell's Vireo was again found n. to Sumner Dam, where one to 2 were singing 9-31 May (JEP, JO). Some 16 Gray Vireos were in a newly discovered area e. of Zuni's Blackrock bosque in late May (JAT). Rare but regular, single Yellow-throated Vireos were at N.R.T. 6 May (JEP) and R.S. 11 May (SW). Single Red-eyed Vireos were w. of Clovis 30 Apr (ph. DW), at Ned Houk Park 31 May (JEP, JO), at Quarai 20 May (WWi), and near Cliff 4 May (*fide* RS). The Blue Jay that wintered at Albuquerque was seen 24 Apr (H. Walker) and 6 May (*fide* MB); another persisted at Galisteo until 9 May (BF). Two Purple Martins over Green Meadow Lake at Hobbs 26 May (DH) may indicate expansion of the recently discovered *Lea* breeding population. Bank Swallow populations have apparently crashed at Rio Rancho, e.g., only 2 were present at the Iris Road arroyo 18 & 26 May (CH, WH), where some 350 burrows were empty. Cave Swallows are now nesting at Six Mile Dam, where up to 12 were present 24 May (SW); in the Las Cruces area, two active Cave nests were at the Picacho bridge 10 May (BO). A Winter Wren was w. to Mangas Springs 23 Mar (CR, WE); another was at La Union 3-8 Apr (DB). **Carolina Wrens** continued to attract attention at Bosque, where present since 2011; one or 2 singing birds could usually be heard (m.ob.), and a remarkable 3 were singing 27 Apr (GF). Scarce since the Feb 2011 freeze, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher reports included 2 at Oliver Lee S.P. 13 Apr (DK) and singles at La Joya 11 May (DH) and near Redrock 11 May (RS). For the second consecutive year, a Western Bluebird pair nested in the Albuquerque bosque, where seen feeding nestlings 9-14 May and tending fledglings 21 May (DH). North to *Santa Fe*, a pair of Crissal Thrashers was at Cerrillos 21 Apr (BF). At Cedar Crest, 2 Cedar Waxwings—one carrying nest material—were seen 22 May (D. Ligon) but were not found later. Surprisingly late and far s., an ad. male **Lapland Longspur** was at Holloman Lake 6 Apr (ph. NS). Amazing if accurate was a detailed **Snow Bunting** seen near Lingo, *Roosevelt* 5 Apr (LS). A respectable 33 warbler species were found, including a Worm-eating at Santa Rosa 23 May (WWe) and a Prothonotary at Cerrillos 27 May (ph. JB, ph. BF). Tennessee Warblers with adequate details were one to 2 at R.S. 4-11 May (NP, JEP, SW, ph. RN, ph. MB) and singles at Bosque 11 May (GF) and Ned Houk Park 23-25 May (ph. JO, JEP). A Lucy's Warbler was n. in the Pecos Valley to Sumner Dam 27 Apr (JEP, WWi); in the R.G.V., 4 were singing near Bosque, *Valencia* 28 Apr (DH). Always a treat, single **Kentucky Warblers** were at R.S. 3-4 May (RN, JEP) and Albuquerque 15 May (ph. S. Kelling, m.ob.). Hooded Warblers were singles at R.G.N.C. 13-14 Apr (CR, ph. CW), Socorro 2 May (*fide* MB), Sumner Dam 25 May (JEP), N.R.T. 25 May (JEP, ph. JO), and Ned Houk Park 6 May (JEP). A good Northern Parula season produced singles at nine sites from the R.G.V. eastward, including early singles at Oliver Lee S.P. 13 Apr (ph. DK), Tatum 14 Apr (ph. NH), and La Union 17 Apr (ph. DB), plus a *Union* first at Clayton Lake 18 May (MB, NP). A singing **Magnolia Warbler** at Mesilla Park 11 May (BO) provided a *Doña Ana* first; other Magnolias were at Sumner Dam (JEP), N.R.T. (JEP, ph. JO), Oasis S.P. (A. Hersey, JEP, ph. JO), and Carlsbad (ph. R. Hurd, ph. SW) 9-31 May. Recently regular in spring, single Chestnut-sided Warblers were in *Santa Fe*, *Socorro*, *Quay*, *Roosevelt*, and *Chaves* 15-21 May (m.ob.). An unprecedented **Blackpoll Warbler** season brought 11 individuals to nine counties from the R.G.V. eastward 1-27 May, including a *Rio Arriba* first at Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo 27 May (ph. BF), a *Taos* first at Fred Baca Park 19 May (AT, ph. JT), and an *Otero* first at Oliver Lee S.P. 1 May (ph. B. Barber). Typically scarce in spring, single male Black-throated Blue Warblers were at R.S. 6 May (J. Black, WWe) and N.R.T. 25 May (L. Cuellar, JEP, ph. JO). A record season for **Palm Warbler** produced 9 individuals in seven counties, including one w. to *Cibola* at Acomita Lake 29 Apr (ph. KS) and another there 26 May (CR, ph. S. Drilling), and one 16 km s. of Magdalena 5 May (ph. J. Wilson); others, all from the R.G.V. eastward, were in *Santa Fe*, *Bernalillo*, *Socorro*, *Sierra*, *Union*, and *Curry* 26 Apr–19 May. An ad. male **Prairie Warbler** in the Brokeoff Mountains 4 May (SW) furnished an *Otero* first. One to 2 Hermit Warblers drifted e. to Las Cruces (ph. S Palmer), Bosque (ph. SM, GF), and Sevilleta N.W.R. (DH) 6-13 May. A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was at Clayton Lake 18 May (ph. MB, ph. NP); on the same date, another was at R.G.N.C. (K. Herzenberg, JNP, JJ). The well-known tendency of Painted Redstart to appear beyond expected range and habitat was on display this season, with one n. to Bear Canyon near Santa Fe 22 May (WE, ph. JB), and one to 2 e. to R.S. 2-5 May (ph. RN, m.ob., ph.), plus singles at Percha 23 Mar (CR), Leasburg S.P. 3 Apr (ph. CG), Organ Mountains 30 Mar (ph. D. Sorensen), and Deming 24 Mar (CR, WE).

Up to three male Bobolinks were found singing in late May 2013 at the new Valle del Oro National Wildlife Refuge in Albuquerque's South Valley, including this one on 25 May. *Photograph by Jerry R. Oldenettel.*

TOWHEES THROUGH FINCHES

A male **Eastern Towhee** was at Galisteo 19-20 Apr (WE, ph. JB, ph. BF). Cassin's Sparrow was practically non-existent in its core breeding areas in the e. part of the state, where detections were down by 95% or more on some B.B.S. routes. Latest Field Sparrows were one at N.R.T. 20 Apr (JO, DH) and 2 at R.S. 4 May (ph. MB, NP). A late Baird's Sparrow was near R.S. 4 May (ph. MB, ph. NP, ph. RN, JEP); another was in e. *Lea* 7 Apr (ph. LS). Fox Sparrows in the far sw. were a red one in Post Office Canyon 16-24 Mar and a gray one there 25 Mar (CL). The Harris's Sparrow that wintered at Bosque remained until 1 May (m.ob.); latest were singles at Waldrop Rest Area 21 May (C. Carver) and Oasis S.P. 19-22 May (JL). A Golden-crowned Sparrow was a one-day wonder at Corrales 23 Mar (ph. DK). Hepatic Tanagers out on the prairie included singles at Ramon 12 May (SW), Vaughn 17 May (SW), s. of Amistad 17 May (MB, NP), and N.R.T. 31 May (JEP, JO). Six male Summer Tanagers were singing in Zuni's Blackrock bosque 30 May (JAT), where breeding was first confirmed only in 2012; very early was a male at Elephant Butte 25 Mar (ph. DC). A bright male **Scarlet Tanager** below Bluewater Dam 28 May (KS) furnished a *Cibola* first; other male Scarlets were at Galisteo 23 May (ph. JB) and s. of Amistad 17 May (ph. MB, ph. NP, JEP). Northern Cardinal continued in evidence in the ne., including a male near Sabinoso 16 Mar (CR), another near Santa Rosa 23 May (WWe), one singing at Tucumcari Lake 18 May (JO), and a pair at Ute Lake 18 May (ph. JO). A Pyrrhuloxia n. to Santa Fe 10-11 Mar (ph. JB, BF) provided a local first. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks flooded the e. two-thirds of the state, with often multiple reports from at least 13 counties from the R.G.V. eastward 23 Apr–23 May; singles were w. to Silver City (EH), Post Office Canyon (CDL), and Double Adobe (AC) 6-11 May. Single early Dickcissels strayed westward to the R.G.V. at Percha 26 Apr (RV) and Mesilla Park 11-12 May (BO). **Bobolinks** generated much excitement at V.D.O., where up to 3 males were singing 22-31 May (DH, m.ob., ph.); in *Santa Fe*, up to 3 males were at Las Campanas 10 May (ph. JB, ph. BF, RC), and another was at the Wildlife Way pond 13 May (JB). Common Grackles returned to Santa Fe on the very early date of 20 Mar (WWe). Two Bronzed Cowbirds were ne. to Ute Lake 17 May (MB, NP); single females at N.R.T. 7-31 May (JEP, ph. JO) and near R.S. 8 May (JEP) were of the grayish w. subspecies *loyei*. An ad. male Hooded Oriole was n. to Escondida 21-22 Apr (ph. SL). A female **Baltimore Oriole** was at Oasis S.P. 7-11 May (JL, JEP, ph. JO); farther w., an ad. male was at Manzano Lake 5 May (WWi), and single females were at Luis Lopez 6 May (JO) and Bosque 10-12 May (GF). Red Crossbills were unusually widespread, including being judged "common" in the Zuni Mountains in May (JAT) and with up to 62 in the Sandia Mountains 27 May (WH); roaming flocks included up to 6 at Elephant Butte 12-20 May (DC), 10 near Radium Springs 25 Mar (MS, JZ), and up to 11 at Deming 20-24 Mar (LM, CR, WE), while several at Silver City in May were suspected of nesting locally (D. Zimmerman). Last of the Pecos Valley **Lawrence's Goldfinches** was a male at Carlsbad 5 Apr (W. Parr, *fide* SW); in the lower R.G.V., 2 were near Radium Springs 11 Mar and one there 18 Mar (MS, JZ).

Initialed observers: Francisco Anaya, Jonathan Batkin, Matthew Baumann, Dan Belcher, Charles Black, Roger Clark, David Cleary, Alan Craig, Wyatt Egelhoff, Bernard Foy, Jerry Friedman, Gary Froehlich, Coleman Goin, David Griffin, Elaine Halbedel, David Hawksworth, Chuck Hayes, Nancy Hetrick, Michael Hilchey, William Howe, James Joseph, David Krueper, Shawn LaBrier, Carroll Littlefield, James Lofton, Larry Malone, Patricia Mehlhop, Sonja Mendoza, Robert Nieman, Jerry Oldenettel, Bruce Ostyn, John E. Parmeter, James N. Paton, Nicholas Pederson, Tim Reeves, Mike Resch, Christopher Rustay, Janet Ruth, Lawry Sager, Kim Score, Marcy Scott, John Shipman, Roland Shook, Dale Stahlecker, Nancy Stotz, John A. Trochet, Ann Tuomey, James Tuomey, Raymond VanBuskirk, Steve West, William West, Debra Whitecotton, S. O. Williams, William Wittman, Cole Wolf, James Zabriskie.

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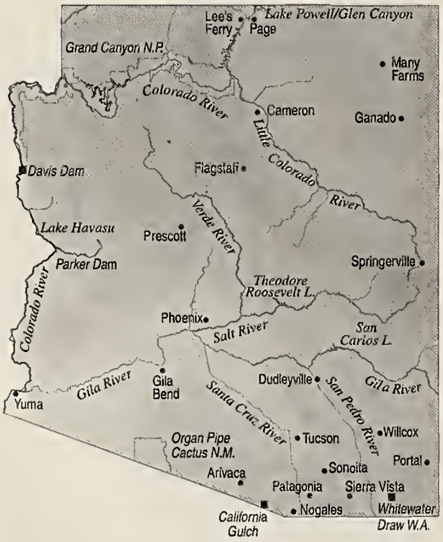
Arizona



Mark M. Stevenson (non-passerines)
Gary H. Rosenberg (passerines)

The spring migration seemed largely unremarkable and of low density, abetted by warm and dry weather. Nevertheless, there were many remarkable rarities, including Crescent-chested Warbler, Slate-throated Redstart, and Yellow Grosbeak. Topping them all was the first nesting of Nutting's Flycatcher known to occur north of Mexico, along the lower Bill Williams River in far western Arizona.

Abbreviations: B.W.D. (Bill Williams Delta, Lake Havasu), Lake Cochise (Lake Cochise, Willcox), L.C.R.V. (lower Colorado River valley), Sweetwater (Sweetwater Wetlands, Tucson).

WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

The Cackling Goose that wintered in Green Valley remained through at least 13 Apr (LH). A recent phenomenon, Canada Geese nested again at Prescott, with goslings present at Willow Lake 17 May (K. Archibald). A male Eurasian Wigeon at Mormon Lake 16 Mar (C. Babbitt) was the only one reported. At Lake Havasu, a Canvasback was late 25 May (LHa, DVP). Away from the L.C.R.V., single migrant Greater Scaup were seen at Safford 12-23 Mar (JCo), Sun City Grand 18 Mar (D. Sherony), Lake Cochise 23 Mar (H. Healy), and Benson S.T.P. 2 Apr (CMc). At B.W.D., the last Greater Scaup lingered through 11 May (DVP), a late date for the species. A transient Surf Scoter was late on Lake Havasu 28 Apr (OJ, LHa), while 2 wintering White-winged Scoters lingered there through 21 Apr (m.ob.) and a transient White-winged was seen 28 Apr (OJ). The White-winged Scoter that wintered at Watson Lake was present through 13 Apr (m.ob.). The last Barrow's Goldeneye of the season lingered late at B.W.D. 19 Apr (LHa). A male Hooded Merganser appeared set to summer at Safford, after staying on from winter (JCo). Red-breasted Mergansers are casual transients away from the L.C.R.V. Increased numbers were found this spring, totaling 34 reported 17 Mar–21 Apr. Just a single ad. Least Grebe was reported intermittently at Peña Blanca Lake 6 Apr+ (ph. A. Pocock), where nesting pairs had been present until recently. A Horned Grebe was a rare transient at Tucson 9-10 Mar (ph. P. Suchanek). At Lake Pleasant, a large reservoir where the species has been somewhat regular recently, 5 Horned Grebes were present 4 Apr (TD). Because it is well off the beaten path, Alamo Lake sees few visiting birders. Its relative proximity to the L.C.R.V. suggests potential for rarities, which was realized this spring. A Red-necked Grebe was found there 3 Mar (ph. K. Radamaker, D. Powell). The only Clark's Grebes away from large reservoirs were singles s. of Phoenix 29

This Red-necked Grebe was discovered at Alamo Lake, Arizona 3 March 2013. There are now more than 25 total records for the state, but the frequency of state records has increased sharply in recent years, with the total nearly doubling in just the past four years. *Photograph by Kurt Radamaker.*

Mar (C. Babbitt) and on Willow Lake 16 Apr (ph. B. Patrick).

Neotropic Cormorants continue their increase in the state. At Tucson, 80-100 were seen 2 Mar+ (m.ob.) as they moved to different ponds and lakes around the city, a big increase from the previous high of 37 last year. Away from the Tucson-to-Phoenix corridor, numbers remained small, but the number of locations where they appeared continues to increase, with reports from *Cochise*, *Coconino*, *Gila*, *La Paz*, *Mohave*, *Yavapai*, and *Yuma* this spring. An ad. Brown Pelican was n. to Willow Lake 2 May (ph. S. Burk), a date when pelicans are not usually on the move in Arizona. A Little Blue Heron at Rio Rico 1 May (L. Norris) was casual, while one at Island S.T.P., Lake Havasu City 21 May+ (D. Wilson; ph. DVP) was very rare in the L.C.R.V. Glossy Ibis were more numerous than usual this spring, with 3 singles reported: at Phoenix west valley 12 (ph. TD) & 23 Mar (ph. M. Herring), at Cibola N.W.R. 20 Apr (ph. CMc), and at Island S.T.P., Lake Havasu City 20-24 May (ph. DVP, LHa; OJ).

White-tailed Kites have been quite rare n. of *Maricopa*, so one near Dewey 20 Mar (D. & A. Manberg) and another at Willow Lake 30 Apr+ (P. Yingling, L. Britt; ph. B. Patrick) were notable. The Dewey observation was about 7 km from the site of last year's observations. Mississippi Kites are seldom seen in migration, so singles at Tumacacori 14 May (KK) and in Pinery Canyon, Chiricahua Mountains 16 May (B. Jones) were notable. Northern Harrier is a very sparse nesting species in Arizona, especially in the s. part of the state; a pair nested at Havasu N.W.R. 16 Apr–3 May (DVP et al.). It was only in 2008 that the phenomenon of large concentrations of spring migrant Common Black-Hawks moving along the Santa Cruz River at Tubac was recognized. This spring, Collins (and others) counted migrating hawks there every day during March. Black-hawks were detected 6-31 Mar, with a peak count of **38** seen 15 Mar and a sum total of **231** (P. Collins). Along the San Pedro River at Charleston, hawks were counted over 18 mornings during the period 1-27 Mar, with 9 Common Black-Hawks tallied 16-22 Mar (EW et al.). A Harris's Hawk strayed n. to Watson Woods, Prescott 14 Apr (ph. TD). At Sierra Vista, a pair of Harris's Hawks was found away from typical habitat 24 Mar+ (EW) and observed copulating in late Apr. The number of Broad-winged Hawks reported this spring was well above average, with details seen for 8 birds during the period 13 Apr–4 May. The mass adoption of digital photography has certainly increased the number of credible observations of the species in Arizona but probably does not fully account for this spring's high total. Gray Hawks continue to expand their range in the state. Notable were one at Sunflower 29 Mar (ph. J. Hopkins), multiple birds returning to Wickenburg 16 Mar (TC et al.), and up to four pairs along Tanque Verde Wash in e. Tucson (m.ob.). There were few reports of Short-tailed Hawk, comprising only one or 2 high in the Chiricahua Mountains 3-6 May (ph. TD, DVP; D. Jones). A Swainson's Hawk was late in the L.C.R.V. at Havasu N.W.R. 28 May (DVP, LHa). A pair of Zone-tailed Hawks was found nesting at Morgan City Wash 14-21 Apr (TC), a new location.

Black-bellied Plovers were more numerous than usual, with singles at Island S.T.P. 16 Apr (ph. DVP), Lake Cochise 21-23 Apr (RBe), Glendale recharge ponds 24-26 Apr (C. Strand), and Lake Cochise 30-31 May (J. Yerger, ph. A. Ripley). An American Golden-Plover trumped them for rarity at Lake Cochise 16 May (ph. GG; J. Yerger). Snowy Plover, which has nested in Arizona in the past, remains quite rare; the only report this season was of up to 2 at Lake Cochise 15-18 May (KK). While Whimbrels are fairly common as migrants in the s. L.C.R.V., they are scarce elsewhere. Farther n. in the L.C.R.V., one was at Havasu N.W.R. 16 Apr (DVP) and 3 at n. Lake Havasu 27 Apr (LHa). They are casual in se. Arizona, where singles were found at Lake Cochise 29 Apr–1 May (ph. E. Ripma), the Santa Cruz Flats 1 May (ph. GG), and Lake Cochise 22 May (ph. AC, LH). A few Marbled Godwits were migrating late in the L.C.R.V., 3 at Lake Havasu City 8-10 May (DVP, LHa) and 2 at Havasu N.W.R. 13 May (DVP et al.). Sanderling is a casual spring transient; one was at Lake Cochise 23 May (ph. K. Watkins). Three Semipalmated Sandpipers were found, singles at Lake Cochise 26 Apr (DS), Mammoth S.T.P. 28 Apr (ph. AC), and Lake Cochise 22 May (AC, LH). For the sixth consecutive spring (and the eighth spring over the past 13 years), White-rumped Sandpipers were found at Lake Cochise, with up to 3 present 12-24 May (G. Bieber; ph. GG, REW). At Thatcher S.T.P., up to 3 were present 14-20 May (ph. J. Coker). Very rare in spring in the L.C.R.V., a Baird's Sandpiper was at Yuma 24 May (H. Detwiler). Similarly, single Short-billed Dowitchers were at Cibola N.W.R. 16 Apr (CMc) and Lake Havasu City S.T.P. 16-29 May (OJ; ph. J. West, DVP). A number of Red-necked Phalaropes arrived on the same early date, with singles at Avondale 9 Apr (TC), Sweetwater 9-17 Apr (MMS, MP), and Lake Cochise 9-13 Apr (ph. A. Ripley). Formerly considered rare in spring in the L.C.R.V., 90 Red-necked Phalaropes were at n. Lake Havasu 27 Apr (DVP, LHa).

Heermann's Gull was more numerous than usual, with singles at Benson S.T.P. 1 Apr (L. Miller, ph. J. Vogt), Mittry Lake 6 Apr (ph. CMc), and Tucson 4 May (J. Higgins; ph. J. Medina). Another Mew Gull was found, an ad. at Lake Havasu City 24 Mar (ph., †LHa; ph., †OJ, DVP). A worn second-cycle Herring Gull was late at Lake Havasu City 26-28 Apr (ph. DVP, LHa). After a few years of low numbers, transient Least Terns rebounded this spring. In the period 17 Apr–27 May, at least 10 were reported, primarily at Lake Cochise and in greater Phoenix. (The irregularity of sightings at Lake Cochise suggested either a wandering individual in the area or as many as 4 additional individuals there.) Notable outliers were at Benson S.T.P. 30 Apr (GG), Tucson 30 Apr (P. Collins), Saguaro Lake 3 May (T. Marquardt), and Roper Lake 10 May (ph. GG). Caspian Terns were also more numerous than usual away from the L.C.R.V. this spring, with 29 reported 15 Mar–15 May. In the L.C.R.V., 5 were late at Havasu N.W.R. 24 May (D. DeLorenzo). A Common Tern was a fine spring find at Lake

This White-rumped Sandpiper was discovered at Willcox, Arizona 15 (here 16) May 2013 by Keith Kamper. The species has become a rare to casual late spring migrant, with most state records coming from Willcox. *Photograph by Gary Graves.*

Havasu City 5 May (ph. OJ). An Elegant Tern was reported at Kingfisher Pond, San Pedro River 7 May (†G. Owings).

The only Ruddy Ground-Dove found this season was along the Gila River near Arlington 3 May (TC). Flammulated Owls are seldom detected on migration, so one found in a mesquite in the Gila Box R.N.C.A. 2 May (ph. EH) was notable. A pair of Ferruginous Pygmy-Owls fledged 3 young in the Altar Valley in May (*fide* TSt); this species continues to be detected in very small numbers in se. Arizona. Also nesting in the Altar Valley was a pair of Long-eared Owls that fledged one young in May (ph. J. Streit, J. Doschka); this species nests irregularly in s. Arizona. A Northern Saw-whet Owl was seen 14 Apr in Black Canyon, *Navajo* (ph. EH), where seldom detected. Birders rejoiced when a Buff-collared Nightjar was found along Proctor Rd. at the mouth of Madera Canyon 25 May+ (J. Hopkins; v.r. AC, ph. LH et al.); the species had been undetected in the state for several years and only at remote California Gulch for years before that. There are several previous records from Proctor Rd. and nearby McCleary Wash (often incorrectly cited as "Florida Wash" in the 1980s/1990s). There was an additional report of a nightjar heard in Faber Canyon, Santa Rita Mountains 31 May (†LH). Early Vaux's Swifts were detected at Meadview 8 Apr (D. Henderson), Sweetwater 9 Apr (MMS, MP, ph. AC), and Madera Canyon 10 Apr (LH).

A Plain-capped Starthroat in lower Madera Canyon, *Pima*, 6-9 May (ph. J. & L. Elling) made the earliest spring arrival date ever. At Hereford, a starthroat returned to a feeder for a third consecutive year 25 May+ (K. LeMay, RBe). Two years after the Monument Fire, Lucifer Hummingbirds continue to return to the e. side of the Huachuca Mountains. At Ash Canyon B&B, a male arrived early 13 Mar, and up to 3 were present 1 Apr–6 May (M. J. Ballator), with one returning 22 May+ (C. Benesh). Elsewhere, arrivals were more typical, beginning 31 Mar, with reports of singles from three locations in the Huachuca Mountains (RBe, T. Battiste, P. Sockness), up to 3 in the Mule Mountains (K. Lamberton), and 3-4 at Portal (REW, RAR, M. Decker). A female Broad-tailed Hummingbird at Desert View, Grand Canyon N.P. 26 Mar (B. Gatlin) was the earliest date for that sex in the Grand Canyon area and followed an early male by five days (B. Gatlin). A Broad-billed Hummingbird was found with eggs in a nest in ne. Tucson on the early date of 20 Mar (MP). The slow expansion of Broad-billeds n. of their known range continues, with one at Gilbert Water Ranch 3 Mar (A. Grant), one at Gold Canyon 13 May (M. Ochs), and 4 at Black Canyon City 24 May (R. Armstrong et al.). A Violet-crowned Hummingbird at Mesa 11-12 Apr (L. Makings) was just the second for *Maricopa*. White-eared Hummingbirds returned to Miller Canyon, Huachuca Mountains, with one at Beatty's 5 May+ (T. Beatty, ph. C. W. Melton) and one or more up canyon from the Beattys 25 May (J. Woodley). Green Kingfisher remains a scarce and irregular visitor to se. Arizona; this season's reports were of single females, along the Santa Cruz River near Tubac 20 Mar (ph. S. & G. Leslie), at San Bernardino N.W.R. 26 Mar (REW), and along the Santa Cruz River near Tumacacori 14 May (KK). A Red-breasted Sapsucker was in Stump Canyon, Huachuca Mountains 24-25 Mar (P. Sockness). Remarkable was a Downy Woodpecker at Hassayampa River Preserve 20 Mar (ph. D. Sherony); this species is extremely rare in s. Arizona. An American Three-toed Woodpecker was s. of the Mogollon Rim in Colcord Canyon ne. of Payson 7 Mar (ph. G. Dunn).

Among reports of Crested Caracaras away from their core range on the Tohono O'odham Reservation, the most notable were a pair building a nest in the Altar Valley 10 Apr (*fide* TSt), a pair with a nest in the Silverbell Mountains 18 Apr+ (EH), and a single bird n. to Dudleyville 10 May (TC).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS

A Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet was near Globe 12 May+ (DPe et al.); this location was n. of typical range and also at a higher elevation than this lowland species typically occurs in s. Arizona. A Greater Pewee was at Cave Springs, Oak Creek Canyon 28 Apr–24 May (ph. G. Botello); this species is a casual spring and summer visitor to areas along the Mogollon Rim in cen. Arizona. Buff-breasted Flycatchers continue to expand their distribution in se. Arizona, with multiples again found in Rose Canyon in the Santa Catalina Mountains 2 Apr+ (m.ob.), as well as 7 in Temporal Gulch, Santa Rita Mountains 11 May+ (AS et al.); the long-term drought in Arizona has likely contributed to creating better conditions for this species, allowing them to spread beyond the Huachuca Mountains, formerly the stronghold for this species in the state. A male Vermilion Flycatcher was at Flagstaff 15 May (S. Blackman); this species is a casual spring overshoot across n. Arizona. A Dusky-capped Flycatcher was very early in Huachuca Canyon 24-26 Mar (A. Miller et al.); another was at Cave Springs, *Yavapai* 4-5 May (ph. K. Murphy; v.r. JC). This species is a casual spring overshoot to areas along the Mogollon Rim. Very exciting, and quite surprising, was the first confirmed nesting record of **Nutting's Flycatcher** for Arizona (and the United States). It began with the re-discovery of the wintering individual along the Bill Williams River 8 Apr (v.r. LHa), which had been unreported since 10 Feb. A Nutting's was then found about 3 km away on 16 Apr (v.r., †OJ), followed by it being seen carrying nesting material 19 Apr (LHa), and finally being found with an apparent fledgling 20 Apr; the next day, 4 individuals were documented, 2 ads. and 2 fledglings (DVP). Prior to this past winter, there were only four previous confirmed records from Arizona, but it is unknown if the two prior records from the Bill Williams River N.W.R. (including one of the nesting pair) represent the same individual. A Brown-crested Flycatcher at Madera Canyon 7 Apr (LH), and another at Catalina S.P. 13 Apr (M. Brooks), were early and considered casual. A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher was found at Pine Creek, *Gila* 26 May (B. Ison); this species occurs casually in spring n. of its normal breeding areas in se. Arizona, occasionally n. to the Mogollon Rim. Casual to rare in the spring, the only Eastern Kingbird reported was one at Green Valley 14 May (J. Easter). Similarly, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Rio Rico 26-30 Apr (N. Lewis, RBe).

A Northern Shrike was at Mormon Lake 30 Mar (TD); this species is still a casual winter visitor across n. Arizona. A Yellow-throated Vireo was reported from Portal 13-15 Apr (B. Small, SW et al.); this vireo has become a rare but regular visitor, mainly in spring. A Hutton's Vireo was at the South Rim of the Grand Canyon 30 May (BG), where the species has been found recently to be rare but regular. A Red-eyed Vireo, casual in the state, was reported from Huachuca Canyon 11 May (RBe). A high count of **60,000** Tree Swallows was reported from Lake Havasu 16 Mar (DVP), while late date reports for the L.C.R.V. included 3 in the Mohave Valley 24 May (DVP). Seemingly out of place was a group of Bushtits at Gila Bend 24 May (CB).

A Winter Wren at Hassayampa River Preserve 3-17 Mar (TD, D. Sherony) was likely the same individual reported from there the prior Nov. A male Black-capped Gnatcatcher was reported 6 May from Presumido Canyon near Sasabe, a new location in Arizona for this expanding species (T. Staudt). Elsewhere, Black-cappeds continued at several locations in se. Arizona, including Florida and Montosa Canyons, as well as at Patagonia Lake. Six Rufous-backed Robins were found: near Patagonia 26 Mar–1 Apr (H. & I. Keutmann; ph. E. Ripma); in a Scottsdale yard 31 Mar (R. Jones); at Bill Williams River

N.W.R. 16-29 Apr (ph. OJ); at Saint David 22 Apr (AR); at South Fork, Cave Creek Canyon 11-14 May (ph. R. Maercklein, J. Hubbard; ph. CDB); and near the San Pedro House 19 May (J. Gebler, D. Tettemmer). Normally, this species is a rare winter visitor from Mexico, and it is unusual for so many to be initially detected during the spring. Three pairs of American Robins nested at Lake Havasu City again 1 Mar+ (LHa, DVP); this species is a casual breeding bird along the Lower Colorado River. Varied Thrushes, casual to rare during the spring, were at El Coronado Ranch, Chiricahua Mountains 8 Mar (J. Carlisle), in South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon 1 Apr (ph. J. Veverka), and in Madera Canyon 6 May (RF). Individual Brown Thrashers were seen at Tucson 8-11 Apr (A. & S. Hilts), at Portal 21 Apr (EH), and continuing at Flagstaff through at least 26 May (LHa).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

The only Ovenbird of the season was one at Quigley W.A., near Yuma 1 May (ph. G. Graves). A Blue-winged Warbler was in South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon 11-12 May (ph., †R. Maercklein); there are about a dozen previous records from Arizona. A Crescent-chested Warbler was discovered in South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon 19-24 Apr (ph. D. Griffin; D. Lusk et al.); this represents a thirteenth record for Arizona, eight of which have been since 2005. Another Crescent-chested was found in Miller Canyon, Huachuca Mountains 24-26 Apr (SW; ph. C. Melton, K. Schneider; v.r. J. Woodley). There was also discussion of a second (singing) individual being present in Miller Canyon at the same time. A Tennessee Warbler, still casual in the state, was reported from Saguaro N.P. (East) 4 Apr (†B. Gibbons). For the second spring in a row, a Kentucky Warbler was at Happy Valley, *Pinal* 6 May (N. Lange). The only Hooded Warbler of the season was at Portal 15 Apr (REW). An ad. male Blackpoll Warbler was reported from Morgan City Wash 30 Apr (TC), and another was photographed along the San Pedro River near Hereford 30 Apt (T. Wood; ph. M. Wittmer); this species is a casual spring transient in the state. A Black-throated Blue Warbler, casual during spring, was in Huachuca Canyon 27 Apr (C. McClaren; ph. LH). A Palm Warbler was at Safford 1 May (ph. J. Coker), another at Vermilion Cliffs 6 May (ph. S. Putz), and a singing male was well described from Pintail Slough, Havasu N.W.R. 14 May (D. Preston). Rufous-capped Warblers again bred (apparently successfully) in Florida Canyon, with 2-3 present much of the spring (m.ob.). Another Rufous-capped was discovered in Humboldt Canyon, Patagonia Mountains 7 May (†CL; ph., †B. Marshall); this species, in the same fashion as Black-capped Gnatcatcher, appears to be expanding its distribution within se. Arizona. Outstanding was the discovery of Arizona's eighth Slate-throated Redstart at the Southwest Research Station, Cave Creek Canyon 18-21 May (P. D. Hulce; ph. C. West, REW).

A Botteri's Sparrow was at Hereford 7 Mar (ph. L. Sirvio); this species has been found wintering at more locations around se. Arizona, and there are more and more records from Mar–Apr, indicating a change in seasonal status. Six Clay-colored Sparrows were reported, about average for a spring. Grasshopper Sparrows continued to be found in moderate numbers ne. of Camp Verde and near Cottonwood, expanding on the discovery of a relatively large wintering population in this region of cen. Arizona (J. Grahame, T. Linda et al.). A Red Fox Sparrow in East Whitetail Canyon, Chiricahua Mountains 6 Mar (RT) was likely the same individual present there during the winter. A Lincoln's Sparrow in the Mohave Valley 24 May (DVP) was very late for the L.C.R.V. A very late Swamp Sparrow was in Cave Creek Canyon 2 May (TD; ph. DVP). A White-throated Sparrow at Willcox 22 May (ph. LH, AC) was also very late for se. Arizona. Individual Harris's Sparrows were at Slaughter Ranch 2 Mar (REW), a different bird there 20 Mar (REW), and at Flagstaff 9-15 May (ph. P. Koch); Harris's Sparrow is a rare to casual visitor in the state.

Five Hepatic Tanagers at Hualapai Mountain Park, *Mohave* 18 May (OJ, DVP, L. Soloman) was a very high count for the Hualapai Mountains. A singing male Summer Tanager was along the Little Colorado River 64 km downstream from Cameron 11 May (CL), where this species is casual at best. A Western Tanager at Tolleson 23-25 Mar (WG), and another at Carmen along the Santa Cruz River 10 Apr (DS), were both considered casual at these early dates. Northern Cardinal is casual at best in w. Arizona, particularly along the L.C.R.V., so one heard singing at Bill Williams River N.W.R. 30 Mar (OJ, L. Soloman) was of interest. A stunning ad. Yellow Grosbeak was present at a Green Valley feeder 10-12 May (ph. J. & J. Easter) representing about a twenty-fourth record for the state; most state records have been made May–Jul. A Black-headed Grosbeak at Tubac 1 Mar (ph. J. & D. Parker) was very early for a spring transient and may have wintered locally. Painted Buntings are most numerous in se. Arizona in Aug–Sep; one at Bisbee 28 Apr (ph. M. Turisk), one at Paradise 5-6 May (J. Lewis), and another at Portal 10-11 May (RAR) were all noteworthy.

A Bobolink was at a Flagstaff feeder 9-11 May (C. Priest; ph. Z. Zdniak, T. Blows); this species is casual in the state during spring but has bred in the state previously. A Common Grackle was photographed at Agua Fria N.M., *Yavapai* 26 Apr (F. Sharon; ph. M. Sharon); there have been about 20 accepted records from Arizona. Orchard Orioles were reported at Sun City Grand 17-18 Mar (TD, ph. D Bradford; likely the same male as in recent years), at Carr Canyon 26 Apr (H. Brodkin), and at Casa de San Pedro 25 May (R. Beck); this species has become rare but regular in the state. It was an excellent spring for Baltimore Oriole, usually a casual species in the state, with reports from Madera Canyon 28 Apr (P. Jaussi; ph. B. Griffiths), near the San Pedro House 11 May (†J. & N. Gwilliam), Flagstaff 12 May (ph. R. Auler), near Portal 22 May (ph. B. Rodrigues), and Cibola N.W.R. 29 May (†B. Wilcox).

Red Crossbills are always interesting away from montane habitats; one was along the Santa Cruz River near Carmen 10 Apr (DS), and another was in a Tucson yard 1 May (DS); otherwise, there did not appear to be any sort of major flight for the species in Arizona. At least a pair of Lawrence's Goldfinches remained at Hassayampa River Preserve into May, with 2 netted there 4 May (TC, m.ob.); this species nested there in 2012. Lawrence's Goldfinches also nested along Morgan City Wash 30 Mar+ (TC), with ads. feeding nestlings 21 Apr (TC), and along the Bill Williams River 11 May (LHa), with 5 seen near an empty nest. Numerous Evening Grosbeaks were reported from several locations, mostly but not exclusively in the mountains, in Apr–May; most notable were 3 continuing along the Santa Cruz River near Carmen 10 Apr (ph. DS).

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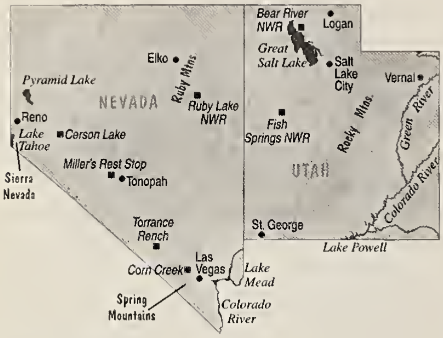
Great Basin



Rick Fridell

The spring season in the Great Basin was rather dry, with temperatures slightly below average throughout much of the Region. Several observers reported a slow and uneventful spring migration, particularly in the southern desert areas. Although the spring season was slow, especially following the spectacular winter season with five first state records, there were still several noteworthy sightings. Nevada highlights included singing Yellow-throated and Philadelphia Vireos and a Bronzed Cowbird in late May. Utah highlights included a pair of Mountain Plovers and a female Painted Bunting at Antelope Island State Park in the Great Salt Lake.

Abbreviations: Antelope Island (Antelope Island S.P. and Causeway, *Davis*, UT); Corn Creek (Corn Creek Unit, Desert N.W.R., *Clark*, NV); Duck Creek (Duck Creek Wetlands, Las Vegas, *Clark*, NV); Floyd Lamb (Floyd Lamb Park, Las Vegas, *Clark*, NV); H.B.V.P. (Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, *Clark*, NV); Lake Mead (Lake Mead N.R.A., *Clark*, NV); Lee Kay (Lee Kay Ponds, *Salt Lake*, UT); Lytle (Lytle Ranch Preserve, *Washington*, UT); Miller's R.A. (Miller's Rest Area, *Esmeralda*, NV); Pahranagat (Pahranagat N.W.R., *Lincoln*, NV); P.A.D. (Provo Airport Dike, *Utah*, UT); Sand Hollow (Sand Hollow S.P., *Washington*, UT); Zion (Zion N.P., *Washington*, UT).

WATERFOWL THROUGH SWIFTS

A male Eurasian Wigeon lingered at Utah Lake, *Utah*, UT 16 Mar–13 Apr (EH et al.). A Mexican Duck × Mallard hybrid visited Overton W.M.A., *Clark*, NV 8 Mar (DV, LH, BB). A White-winged Scoter was photographed on Antelope Island 13 Apr (MH), and a Long-tailed Duck was at Lee Kay 2 Apr (DW). A Red-throated Loon was also at Lee Kay 24 Apr–11 May (ph. BO, ph. NJ). Neotropic Cormorant sightings continue to increase in Utah, with up to 3 at Taylorsville, *Salt Lake* 28 Feb–26 Mar (RY et al.), 3 at St. George, *Washington* 14 Mar–3 Apr (SH, RF), and singles at P.A.D. 4 Apr (JC), Lee Kay 12 May (JT), and Ivins, *Washington* 31 May (RD). Utah Glossy Ibis sightings also continued to increase this spring: Powell Lake, *Utah* 28 Apr (DM), Benson, *Cache* 6 May (ph RO et al.), and Lehi, *Utah* 17 May (JC).

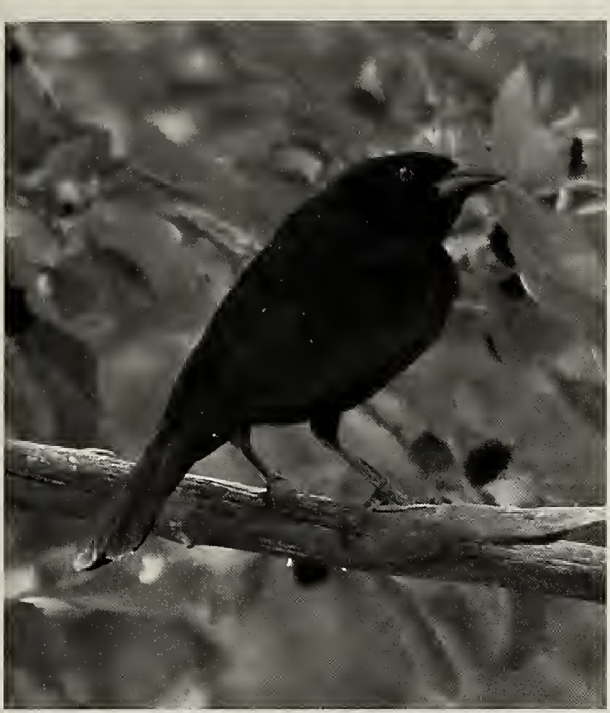
White-tailed Kites were found at Duck Creek 9 Mar (TA, RM) and Ash Springs, *Lincoln*, NV 19 Apr (ph. HW). A Common Black-Hawk visited Warm Springs, *Clark*, NV 23 Apr (JB et al.), and a Broad-winged Hawk lingered along the Virgin River, *Washington*, UT 15-30 May (RD). One of the highlights of the season, 2 **Mountain Plovers** stopped over at White Rock Bay, Antelope Island 10 Apr (ph. MMc, ph. PH et al.). Vagrant Whimbrels were found at Sand Hollow 5 Apr (ph. RF), Powell Lake, *Utah*, UT 3 May (ph. EH), and Lee Kay 5 May (BO). Up to 3 Ruddy Turnstones visited Antelope Island 30 Apr–13 May (ph. NF, ph. PH, JT), and a flock of 7 Red Knots also lingered there 27 Apr–10 May (DW, DSh, ph. JBi). Red Knots also were found at P.A.D. 13 May (DSh, AT, NB) and Stillwater N.W.R., *Churchill*, NV 20 May (D&RS). Stilt Sandpipers made a good showing in Utah, with 9 at Antelope Island 10-13 May, a single at P.A.D. 13 May (DS, AT, NB), and 2 at Almalga, *Cache* 19 May (LL, RO).

A first-cycle Mew Gull was at Sparks Marina, *Washoe*, NV 7 May (MM). Least Terns were observed at Powell Lake, *Utah*, UT 6-12 May (ph. JC, NJ, RY), Sand Hollow 15 May (RD), and Harold Crane W.M.A., *Box Elder*, UT 27 May (ph. PH, KP). Wayward White-winged Doves were reported n. of expected range at Ophir Canyon, *Tooele*, UT 13 Apr (EH) and Jensen, *Uintah*, UT 10 May (CJ). Out-of-range Vaux's Swifts were at St. George, *Washington*, UT 14 May (RD) and Croydon, *Morgan*, UT 19 May (WS).

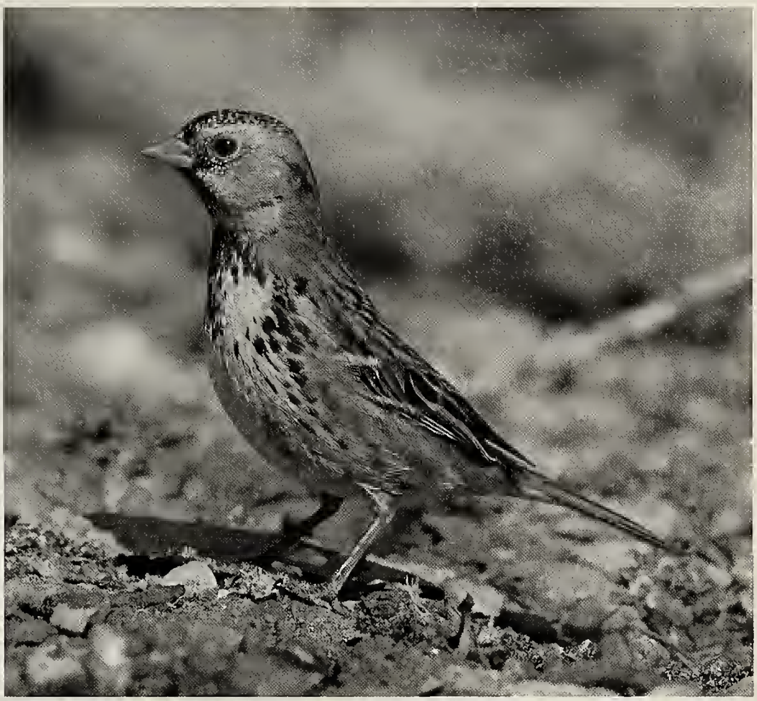
PASSERINES

A singing Least Flycatcher turned up at Farmington, *Davis*, UT 18 May (RV, SR et al.). Eastern Phoebes were observed in Nevada at Corn Creek 3 Apr (CT, RS), Shoshone Ponds, *White Pine* 17 Apr (AA), and Corn Creek 13 May (SC). A singing **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at Derby Dam, *Washoe*, NV 28 May+ (GS et al.), and a singing **Philadelphia Vireo** was observed at Circle L Ranch, *Esmeralda*, NV 26-28 May (GS, RL, RS). There were several Purple Martins reported this spring, including 2 at Dyer, *Esmeralda*, NV 24 May (RL) and singles at H.B.V.P. 8 May (ph. RM), Corn Creek 24 May (GS), and P.A.D. 31 May (EH). A Winter Wren found during the winter season, lingered at Grove Creek Canyon, *Utah*, UT through at least 7 Mar (MT, NB). A Gray Catbird was found at Corn Creek 21 May (GS), and a Brown

Utah's first Neotropic Cormorant was discovered in August 2007, and a second was documented in summer 2008. Since then, the flood gates have opened, and more than 50 have been documented in nine Utah counties. This subadult, one of nine reported in Utah in spring 2013, was photographed at St. George, Washington County 28 March. *Photograph by Rick Fridell.*



This male Bronzed Cowbird was photographed 21 May 2013 at the Corn Creek Unit of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, Clark County, Nevada. *Photograph by Greg Scyphers.*



One of three wintering Harris's Sparrows that lingered into the spring 2013 season in the Great Basin region, this individual was photographed at Lytle Ranch, Washington County, Utah 6 March; the last report of the species in the Great Basin region was 29 March, quite late. *Photograph by Rick Fridell.*

Thrasher spent time at the Tonopah County Jail, *Nye*, NV 18 May (GS). A Lapland Longspur was a nice surprise at Camp Williams, *Utah*, UT 21 Apr (DM).

Ovenbirds turned up at the Abandoned Ranch 24 May (RL) and Leidy Creek 26 May (GS), both Dyer, *Esmeralda*, NV. In the period 6-24 May, Northern Waterthrushes were reported from *Davis* (NJ, DH), *Salt Lake* (KF), *Utah* (DW, EH, JC), and *Washington*, UT (RD), and from *Clark* (GS, AL, JS), *Esmeralda* (SS, GS, DS), and *Lincoln*, NV (AA). Black-and-white Warblers were found at Spring Mountain S.P., *Clark*, NV 9 May (AL, JS), Pahranagat 19 May (GS, DM), and Tonopah Cemetery, *Esmeralda*, NV 24 May (D&RS). A Lucy's Warbler was n. of expected areas at Miller's R.A. 28 May (D&RS), and a Tennessee Warbler was at Corn Creek 20-21 May (GS). Only 2 American Redstarts were reported, from Pahranagat 19 May (GS, DM) and Pyramid Lake, *Washoe*, NV 23 May (MM). Northern Parulas were discovered at Corn Creek 12 May (JS), Virgin River, *Washington*, UT 24 May (RD), Derby Dam, *Washoe*, NV 28 May (GS), and Floyd Lamb 31 May (ph. AL). Blackpoll Warblers were at Corn Creek 13-21 May (SC et al.) and at Floyd Lamb 16 May (ph. DV). A Palm Warbler was a nice find at Utah Lake S.P., *Utah*, UT 6 May (HG, ph. EH), and a Painted Redstart made an appearance at the Riverside Walk, Zion 4-12 Apr (TAv et al.).

A Clay-colored Sparrow was found along the Virgin River, St. George, *Washington*, UT 28 May (RD). Two Lark Buntings visited the Washington Fields, *Washington*, UT 3 May (ph. RF). White-throated Sparrows were reported from Dyer, *Esmeralda*, NV 18 May (GS) and Corn Creek 20-21 May (GS), and 3 Harris's Sparrows lingered at Lytle from the winter season through 29 Mar (ph. RF). Several Summer Tanagers were n. of expected areas at Causey Reservoir, *Weber*, UT 4-5 May (BM), Logan, *Cache*, UT 15 May (CaJ), and P.A.D. 18 May (JC, EH). It was a great spring for Rose-breasted Grosbeak sightings in the Great Basin, with 10 individuals discovered 10-31 May: Nevada singles were in *Churchill* (CA) and *Clark* (JS, MS, AL); Utah birds were in *Cache* (RO et al.), *Duchesne* (PJ), *Morgan* (*fide* WS), *Wasatch* (DHo), and *Washington* (RD). A female **Painted Bunting** was found at Garr Ranch, Antelope Island 30 Apr–2 May (ph. BO, JBl et al.); however, some questioned its provenance due to the early date and a damaged bill.

A singing male Bobolink visited Miller's R.A. 18 May (GS), and a vagrant Bronzed Cowbird was photographed at Corn Creek 21 May (GS). Surprisingly, 3 Baltimore Orioles were documented this season: at Pahranagat 19 May (DM, ph. GS), Springdale, *Washington*, UT 22 May (†CI), and Miller's R.A. 30 May (ph. J&GA). Common Redpolls from the winter irruption into the Region lingered at Croydon, *Morgan*, UT 3-17 Mar (ph. WS) and at Elk Ridge, *Utah*, UT 5 Mar (BS).

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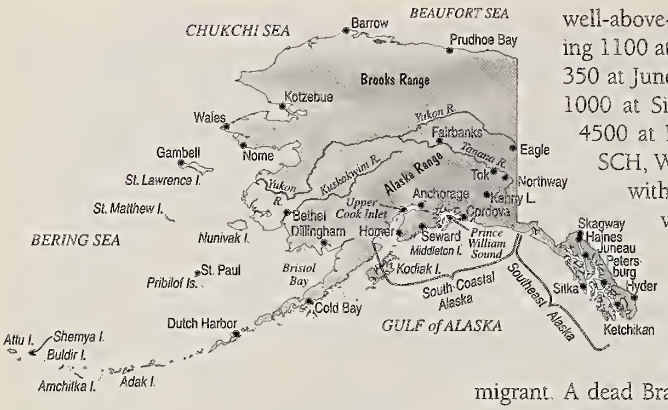
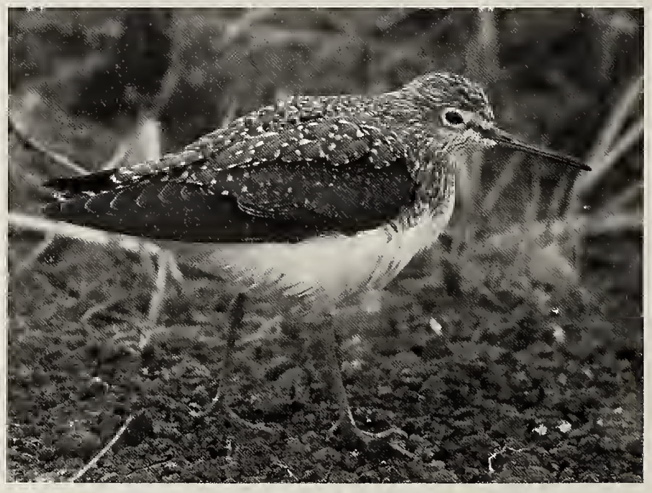
Alaska



Thede Tobish

Spring 2013 was all about the weather. Following a very long, cold, snowy winter season, spring, for most of the Region north of southern Southeast, was only evident by lengthening daylight until the end of May. All-time weather records for coldest months, late snowfalls, and other assorted conditions were broken or challenged across much of the state, all of which combined to influence migration quite dramatically. Ice break-up on the mainland was deemed two to three weeks later than recent norms. Winter snow packs lingered very late into late May and beyond, which contributed to local colder temperatures. Although there were some notable early arrivals from southern Southeast, first arrival dates were late for most species. The toll on migrants from these conditions was profound: many accounts of migrant concentrations and behaviors from the eastern interior areas were beyond the realm of anyone's experience (see the Special Attention feature, below).

Coverage in the Aleutians continues to wane compared to recent decades, but a fallout on Attu 31 May recalled old times. The season was otherwise unremarkable for most Eurasian species, and consistent coverage offshore came only from St. Paul Island.



During a mid-May 2013 snowstorm on the Pribilofs, this Green Sandpiper was found along the main road on St. Paul Island 16 May. This photograph nicely confirms the first Pribilof Islands record of this very rare spring migrant to western Alaska's island outposts. *Photograph by Douglas Gochfeld.*

WATERFOWL THROUGH HAWKS

A Tundra Bean-Goose at St. Paul Island 18 May (St. Paul Tour) made the only report. Backed up by heavy snowpack and protracted ice break-up, huge numbers of Greater White-fronted Geese were widely reported. Unusually high numbers for the Anchorage/Palmer area, including both tundra- and taiga-nesting taxa, were noted in late Apr–early May, and sites in Alaska's Southeast also produced well-above-average counts, including 1100 at Gustavus 2 May (NKD), 350 at Juneau 27 Apr (NRH, GBV), 1000 at Sitka 27 Apr (MRG), and 4500 at Ketchikan 27 Apr (AWP, SCH, WTY). An ad. Ross's Goose with Snow Geese at Gustavus 11 May lingered in the area through 4 Jun (RHA, BBP, KN, ph. NKD), a first local and sixth Southeast report for this still casual spring migrant. A dead Brant at Sitka 13 May (AT) had been banded as an ad. at Albert Edward Bay, Victoria Island, Canada 26 Jul 1988 (*fide* Bob Bromley); this bird was thus more than 25 years old, making it one of the longest-lived Black Brant on record. Among the early May hordes of swans and geese in the Delta Junction farm fields were 2 **Bewick's Swans** 10-14 May (SD, ph. LHD, NRH); there are few documented mainland reports of this subspecies. A single Whooper Swan was noted around Gambell 2-3 May (RBB). Spring season dabbler highlights were few. A very high count of 75 probably wintering Gadwall came from Kruzof Island 3 Mar (MRG); the species is a very local migrant and wintering bird in Southeast. Eurasian Wigeons showed well across the Region, especially in the e. Interior, where 1-2 birds were reported from 4-31 May at four sites from Tok to Fairbanks (*fide* ND, m.ob.). Two Cinnamon Teal were in the Juneau area 9 May (LAL). Diving duck highlights were also few. Some 88 Ring-necked Ducks in a marsh near milepost 24 of the Haines Rd. in the Chilkat Valley 13 May (NRH, LHD) made a record count for Southeast. A female Barrow's Goldeneye 2 May was followed by an imm. male 18-21 May on St. Paul Island (St. Paul Tour), where there are perhaps four previous records; the species is very rare generally in the Bering Sea. A female Ruddy Duck at the Fairbanks peat ponds 26 May (MR, ND, JD) was very rare for the interior.

Sitka's wintering Pied-billed Grebe was last noted 5 Mar (MLW); an ad. on salt water at Ketchikan 17 May (JFK) was an unexpected spring migrant. This species is a regular, rare fall migrant and wintering bird in Southeast. The lone Western Grebe at Gustavus 20 Apr (NKD) constituted the first local spring record; most of the regular and local wintering Western Grebes leave the Region by mid-Apr, and the species is rare in n. Southeast beyond Sumner Strait. Attu-bound birders made a count of 300 Mottled Petrels while underway 29 May (JP et al.). This count rivals other high numbers from the w. Aleutians in spring. Another extralimital Double-crested Cormorant reached the Nome area 22-24 May (ID), where there are at least two prior reports.

A Great Blue Heron moving northward near Talkeetna 19-20 May (JR, DB) made a first local record and one of very few away from coastal sections of Gulf of Alaska. Local residents photographed a **Gray Heron** at Nikolski Village, Umnak Island 6-16 Apr (ph. DS, *fide* SLG)—the Region's fourth record and second in spring. A Great Egret surprised fisheries biologists working on the Berners River up Lynn Canal 29-30 May (ph. JCW, RSF). This represents the tenth report for Southeast since the first Alaska record from Juneau in Jun 1980. A **Turkey Vulture** observed soaring over the Ketchikan area 29 May (ph. CR) documented only the third Southeast record. Vultures have been reported numerous times in the Region, primarily from the s. coast and the interior, but also from more northerly sites such as Dillingham, Nome, and Barrow. Fewer than 10 of these reports has been documented by photograph or specimen. Notable Osprey sightings for Southeast included 2 together on the lower Naha River, Revillagigedo Island 22 May (SCH) and another at nearby Moser Bay 26-27 May (AW); both areas have previous observations, and nesting is suspected, though published nest records from Southeast are few. The famous and now long-staying subad. White-tailed Eagle at St. Paul Island remained in evidence into the summer. The e. interior produced 3-4 Swainson's Hawks: from the Delta area 5, 12, & 14 May (ND, ph. JD, ph. SD, ph. LHD, NRH) and

S A This spring produced the most spectacular early migration the Tanana Valley has ever witnessed. After one of the coldest Aprils on record, heavy snowpack across the e. interior lingered well into May across Alaska. Harsh winter-type storms blasted snow and unfavorable winds well into May, which delayed arrival dates and northbound movements by some two weeks for most of the early spring migrants. This combination severely limited available habitat for waterbirds, raptors, and the early migrant passerines.

Concentrations of these groups were the highest possibly ever witnessed across the upper Tanana Valley. Massive flocks of Greater White-fronted Geese, Snow Geese, Tundra Swans, and Sandhill Cranes, in some cases record-high local counts, swelled in the few open fields in and around the Delta Junction farms during the first week of May. At that time, hundreds of northbound raptors (mostly *Buteo*) and Bald Eagles were also encountered, many right along the Alaska Hwy. Starting about 9 May, Sandhill Crane flocks grew to over 10,000 birds in the Delta Junction area, which was the highest spring count there in nearly 30 years.

Observers also described clouds of Lapland Longspurs and American Pipits aggregated along the open highway edges in early May. A heavy overnight snow storm on 13 May downed incredible numbers of passerines in the Delta Junction environs, where a local biologist estimated 100,000 birds, mostly sparrows, along a 24-km stretch of the Tok Cutoff s. of Tok. These fallout birds were concentrating along a sliver of snow-free ground at the highway edges. He described that the ground was in constant movement and that the singing (mostly White-crowned Sparrows) was deafening. Tok residents reported overrun bird feeders—even grebes and yellowlegs seeking out snow-free sites in their yards. The timing of this late cold front and snow hit swallows especially hard, as evidenced by a North Pole resident's description from his yard outside of Fairbanks. He reported hundreds of mostly Tree and Violet-green Swallows 15-18 May huddling on his porch and roof rafters with clearly no flying insects available. He recovered numerous deceased birds and watched some drop out of the sky dead. In the midst of this chaos, several observers gave accounts of Rusty Blackbirds, clearly stressed themselves, preying on Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Common Redpolls, and sparrows in their yards in mid-May.

near Fairbanks 11 May (JP); most spring seasons see only a single in the interior. An early ad. Red-tailed Hawk at Juneau 15-29 Apr (GBV, *fide* WSC) appeared to be of the *calurus* subspecies, not yet documented in Southeast. This western subspecies is replaced by the smaller, darker *alascensis* subspecies in coastal British Columbia and most of Southeast. Most reports of Western Red-taileds elsewhere in the Region may refer to intergrades of *calurus* and *harlani*, which are numerous in e. interior.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

This spring's shorebird migration started slowly, peaked late, and included concentrations of uncommon central flyway species that typically overfly much of the s. half of the Region. Eurasian species showed poorly. Astounding numbers of the typically uncommon Black-bellied Plover turned up on Gustavus beaches late Apr–early May, with unusual counts of 500 from 30 Apr and 620 from 6 May dwarfed by a remarkable 5000 in that area during a stormy 2 May (BBP, NKD). This has to be one of the highest Alaska counts ever. A lone Black-bellied at St. Paul Island 15 May (St. Paul Tour) made a rare s. Bering Sea report and the Pribilofs' thirteenth overall. American Golden-Plovers dropped into n. Southeast in strong numbers 20-24 May. Maximum counts included 360 in the Juneau coastal wetlands 20 May (MWS, DS) and 450 at Gustavus 23 May (BBP). The only prior Southeast report of similar numbers came from spring 1992, with similar weather conditions, when 1000 were estimated at Juneau: that is the only prior Southeast report with more than 100 birds. A mid-May storm system included heavy snow that grounded a **Green Sandpiper** in a St. Paul Island roadway 16 May (St. Paul Tour, ph. DG), the Pribilofs' first confirmed record and second overall observation. A Solitary Sandpiper reached the nw. coast 22 May at Unalakleet (KS), where this boreal nester is casual. Bristle-thighed Curlews were noted again on the w. Kenai Peninsula, following last spring's strong showing. Two were on the Homer Spit 18 May followed by 3 there 23 May (GL). Six were located at the Anchor River mouth 20 May (ID, AJL, MR, BM), growing to 9 birds by 21 May (MR), last seen 25 May. One was farther n. at the Kasilof River mouth 25 May (BM). Prior to spring 2012, there were perhaps three total Bristle-thighed Curlew reports for the Kenai Peninsula.

The shorebird highlight from the late May Attu storm fallout was a **Far Eastern Curlew** 31 May (JP et al.). Some 28 Marbled Godwits were at the Situk-Ahrnklin Lagoon 12 May (NRH); a flock of 25 was at Ketchikan 1 May (SCH, WTY, AWP); and 14 were at Gustavus 30 Apr (NKD); the latter two records provided new local area counts. A Common Snipe visited Adak Island 12-19 May (FH, BH); another was at Gambell 18 May (BB). Three Wilson's Phalaropes at Gustavus 30 May (NKD, BBP) were the only ones reported. Some 100 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Juneau's Mendenhall Wetlands 21 May (DS) and 200 at Gustavus 25 May (NKD), the latter a new local record count, were high counts for this central flyway migrant. An estimated 4200 Short-billed Dowitchers stacked up on the Gustavus beaches in stormy weather 2 May (BBP), a record-high count for Southeast and for anywhere in the Region away from the few historic concentration sites.

Single Sabine's Gulls noted in Glacier Bay 14 & 27 May were standard rare inshore migrants for Southeast, while the 60 counted in the lower bay 31 May was a new local record high in spring (JV, SFN). Another at Ketchikan 14 May (SCH) was a rare migrant for inshore waters of s. Southeast. A roosting Ross's Gull at St. Paul Island 22 May (St. Paul Tour) followed a handful of similar spring reports from the Pribilofs and was the first there since 2006. The season's lone Franklin's Gull was at St. Paul Island 22-24 May (St. Paul Tour), the Pribilofs' fifth record. An ad. Western Gull at Sitka 26 Mar–6 Apr (ph. MRG) marked the fourth spring in the past six that this species has been found there. Westerns remain casual in s. Southeast. A notably early California Gull at Ketchikan 1 Mar (SCH) was followed by typical small numbers there into mid-May. Singles were observed in n. Southeast, where considerably rarer in spring, at Sitka 4 May (MRG) and Gustavus 3 May (ph. NKD)—the latter provided a first documented local spring record. A subad. Thayer's Gull at St. Paul Island 18 May (St. Paul Tour) was only about the fourth local spring report for the s. Bering Sea.

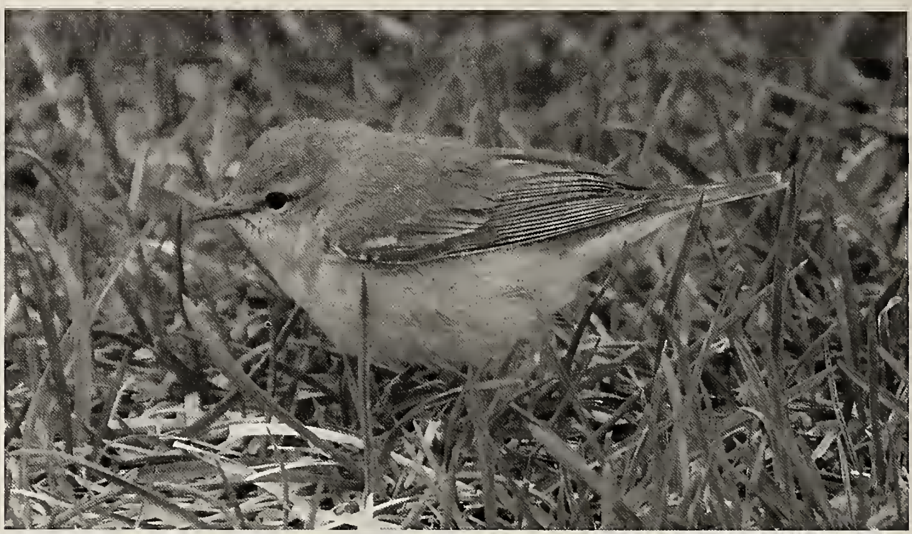
A Caspian Tern at Ketchikan 26 Apr (WTY, SCH, AWP) was the first arrival reported. Fourteen Caspians acting defensively within a Glaucous-winged Gull colony on Flapjack Island in lower Glacier Bay 30 May+ (TML) indicated a possible new breeding site. A high-flying flock of 110 Long-tailed Jaegers over lower Glacier Bay 31 May (NKD) was unprecedented for inside waters and suggest that some migrant Long-taileds fly directly overland in n. Southeast to interior nesting areas and beyond. A Black Guillemot at St. Paul

Island 21 May (St. Paul Tour) was very late.

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

In n. Southeast, where Eurasian Collared-Doves are still only present in small numbers, a notable influx was observed at several locales in late May. Up to 18 total were observed between Juneau 26 May (PAR, GBV) and Gustavus in late May (WC, JVa, JJ), including 3 that flew out to a cruise ship in Glacier Bay's upper west arm (NKD). Up to 4 were noted at Sitka (MRG) during the period, and up to 3 hung around Klukwan 24-28 May (CPS). A Common Cuckoo was part of the late May fallout at Attu Island 31 May (JP et al.). A Great Gray Owl corpse was found along the Chilkoot Trail out of Skagway 13 May (ph. JW); this species is seldom reported from Southeast and, as with several other owl species there, its status remains poorly understood. The same could be said of a Boreal Owl at Juneau 17 Mar (ph. DFE), though Boreal Owls are very probably rare residents in Southeast. Two very early Vaux's Swifts over Wrangell 30 Apr (BHD, CLR) matched the Region's previous record arrival date; the first arrivals at Juneau came in 11 May (GBV). Following a spectacular winter showing of Anna's Hummingbirds from the Ketchikan area, only one male remained through early May (AWP). A female attended a Juneau feeder 5-27 Apr (GBV). This species is casual in late spring and summer. After 41 years, MacIntosh documented an ad. male Rufous Hummingbird 13-23 May at Kodiak (ph. RAM), where the species rarely overshoots in spring. Southeast Rufous Hummingbird arrivals were basically on time, e.g., 28 Mar at Ketchikan (AWP, TLH). The interior's only Yellow-bellied Sapsucker report was of a presumed returning pair to a Scottie Creek copse near the Canadian border in May (*fide* ND). Extralimital Red-breasted Sapsuckers included singles offshore at Kodiak 16 Apr (GK, RAM; in the same yard where one was seen in late Nov) and in Upper Cook Inlet at Girdwood 27 May (DC), where casual. Mixed in with a grouping of actively hunting Merlins in the Anchor Point area of the w. Kenai Peninsula was a possible Eurasian Hobby, described from 10 May (†AB).

Two calling Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at Creamer's Field in Fairbanks 27 May (HS, *fide* ND) were possibly record early for the Region. Kenny Lake birders reported an early Least Flycatcher near Chitna on the Edgerton Hwy. 1 Jun (RM, CE), in an area where this very rare Jun migrant often turns up. Especially casual in spring for Southeast was a Say's Phoebe at Juneau's Eagle Beach 25 May (ph. PAR, MWS, BW, ACC). Say's Phoebe was once described as a rare probable breeder in Southeast, based on Glacier Bay observations from the 1960s. Given the brutal spring conditions, single Warbling Vireos 12 May at Ketchikan (SCH) and at Wrangell (CLR, BHD) were surprisingly early. Very early at Gambell was a bird identified by the observer as a Horned Lark of the Asian subspecies *flava* 18 May (RBB). Horned Larks retured to Southeast 29 Apr, with a strong count of 40 from Juneau (LAL, ACC, GSB) and others at Gustavus (NKD). Horned Larks are rare migrants and summer visitors on the Southeast mainland and casual in the Alexander Archipelago. Northern Rough-winged Swallow highlights included singles in the Ketchikan area 5 & 25 May (SCH, WTY), where rare, and one at Gustavus 18 May (BBP), where casual. The Cliff Swallow that wandered offshore to Gambell 27 May (AJL) possibly tied that site's earliest previous report. Two Cliff Swallows were at Kalsin Bay, Kodiak 21 & 23 May (RAM, SB, JP), where the species is observed roughly every other spring. The season's most unusual Barn Swallow reports included a single early bird at North Pole near Fairbanks 18 May (KC, *fide* ND) and one at Kodiak 23 May, then 2 there 26 May (ph. RAM). Gray-streaked and Dark-sided Flycatchers were noted in the fallout frenzy at Attu 31 May, plus 5 Siberian Rubythroats (JP et al.). Most Northern Wheatears arrive in late May and early Jun; 5 grounded wheatears along the Alaska Hwy. between Tok and Delta 14 May (LHD, NRH) provided one of the earliest dates for the interior. This record may indicate that the earliest migrants passing across the Bering Strait also penetrate farthest into their Alaska breeding range. Perhaps because of the season's cold and snowy conditions, migrant Mountain Bluebirds made a strong showing, highlighted by an extremely early Southeast bird on the Wilson River in Misty Fiords N.M. 12 Mar (WTY). From Juneau came several reports of 1-8 birds in the period 7 Apr–13 May, and 1-4 birds were reported along the Alaska Hwy. between Northway and Fairbanks in the interior 17 Apr–12 May (m.ob., *fide* ND). A lone bird was more unusual along the Richardson Hwy. near Paxson 10 May (AB). Among a handful of Townsend's Solitaire reports, the most significant were singles at Kodiak 17 Mar (OH, ph. RAM; possibly the same bird found there 15 Dec), and at milepost 10 on Cordova's Copper River Hwy. 18 May (MGB), where the species is casual.



Spring 2013 produced fair numbers of Tennessee Warblers in Alaska, as well as several early arrival dates. This bird was in a yard in Klukwan, upriver from Haines 22 May. Tennessee Warblers more often turn up in early to mid-June in Alaska. *Photograph by Chuck P. Susie.*

WAGTAILS THROUGH HOUSE SPARROW

Attu birders found a Gray Wagtail in the 31 May storm fallout (*fide* JP). Bohemian Waxwings staged an unprecedented and late mid-season movement in Southeast. Maximum counts included 17 near Skagway 27 Apr (BBP), at least 12 at Bartlett Cove near Gustavus 29 Apr (CBR), 15-20 near Juneau 28-29 Apr (JM), and 5 at Juneau 4 May (AS, LS). The usually small numbers of wintering birds normally depart Southeast by the first few days of Apr; 4 at Kodiak through 25 Mar (BC) were said to mark that locale's latest winter record. Tennessee Warblers were early and well represented in the Region, including one near Juneau 25 May (MWS, PAR, GBV, RJG, ACC), 2 nearby 30 May (ACC), and another n. of there at Klukwan 22 May (ph. CPS), plus an unusually early bird along the Richardson Hwy. near Paxson 26 May (JP, *fide* ND). A Common Yellowthroat was a rare find offshore at Sitka 29-30 May (ph. MRG); the species is very rare on the outer Southeast coast. Another was noted at Fairbanks 31 May, where there are a few spring reports (JR-G). Common Yellowthroat has been detected with increasing regularity in the e. interior, mostly in Jun. Given that most Alaska Palm Warbler records come from the fall season, one at Creamers Field, Fairbanks 28 May (BR, *fide* ND) was highly unusual. There few spring reports for the Region of this now annual but rare fall migrant. Townsend's Warblers were late arriving throughout their Alaska breeding range, with the first Southeast birds noted 20 Apr at Ketchikan (WTY). Territorial birds were extremely late to arrive and set up territories in the Anchorage hills, well into mid-May (TGT).

What must have been a North Gulf Coast wintering **Swamp Sparrow** showed up with migrant *Zonotrichia* at Lang's Homer area feeder 22 Apr (AJL). This marks the Kenai Peninsula's first record and one of very few from outside this rare visitor's more usual late fall and winter reports. An overwintering White-throated Sparrow remained at Heinl's Ketchikan feeder through 22 Apr; by mid-Apr, the bird had finished molting into bright plumage. Another overwintering rare sparrow, a Harris's Sparrow remained at its favored Klukwan feeder until 9 May (ph. CPS). Territorial *pugetensis* White-crowned Sparrows were again located at the Ketchikan airport, where nesting was documented for the first time last summer. At least 2 singing birds were present 11 May+, one of which was paired with a female 15 May+ (SCH, WTY). Recent observations suggest this subspecies occurs annually around Ketchikan. Five Rustic Buntings tallied at Attu 31 May (JP et al.) made a strong showing for this species that appears to have become less regular in the w. Aleutians. Another Rustic at Gambell 27 May (GB, AJL) was a rare find for St. Lawrence Island, where the species is not annual.

This spring's Black-headed Grosbeaks, both single birds, appeared at Wrangell 29 May (GS, *fide* BHD) and along the Chilkat River at Klukwan 26-27 May (ph. CPS). This recent addition to the state's avifauna has become a nearly regular spring and early summer visitor to Southeast since 1996, especially along the Stikine River. A female Red-winged Blackbird that constructed a nest, which she later abandoned, near Sitka in late May (ph. MRG) was unusual; the species is not known to breed on the outer coast of the Alexander Archipelago. Brown-headed Cowbirds were widely reported in Southeast this spring, with singles noted at Ketchikan 4 & 22 May (JFK, SCH), at Wrangell 24 May (KLC), at Elfin Cove 28-30 May (SFH), at Juneau 8, 13-14, & 27-28 May (ACC, MWS, PAR), and at Gustavus 30-31 May (NKD, BBP). Cowbirds are rare migrants and local breeders in Southeast.

Five of the original flock of 7 Bramblings that wintered at Kodiak were last noted at their home feeder 23 Apr (CKB). Lingering winter conditions and late season snows probably caused the unprecedented showing of Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches in Southeast. Migrants are at best occasionally noticed near sea level in spring. Many of this spring's birds were identified as subspecies *tephrocotis*—which breeds in the Brooks Range and interior mountains of the Yukon Territory and British Columbia—rather than the regular migrant and breeding *littoralis* subspecies. Twenty birds at Skagway 25 Apr (EFK) were followed by another 50 on 27 Apr, then 30 the next day (BBP). At nearby Haines, 200 were reported 29 Apr (PTHR), while large numbers were found at Klukwan beginning with 12 on 26 Apr (8 *littoralis*, 4 *tephrocotis*), building to a peak of 60+ on 1 May (ph. CPS). A flock of 8 at Juneau contained one *tephrocotis* 28 Apr and then grew to 30 birds on 30 Apr (DS). This spring's Purple Finch reports included a female at Ketchikan 11 Mar (ph. JHL), a male at Petersburg 16 Apr (REL, MDM), and 2 females at a Klukwan feeder 22 May, with one remaining on 23 May (ph. CPS). This species is a very rare visitor to Ketchikan, mainly in fall and winter, and is casual elsewhere in Southeast. Both Red and White-winged Crossbills were described as common and breeding in the Kodiak environs from late winter through the spring season. Both were irregular and in generally low numbers elsewhere. Following a tremendous winter showing, Common Redpolls remained widespread and common across Southeast well into Apr, with a few lingering into mid-May. Although numbers were generally lower in s. Southeast, Commons were still widespread, and it continued to be one of the species' best showings in decades at Ketchikan. Not surprisingly, Hoary Redpolls had a presence this spring in Southeast, with singles at Juneau 7 & 25 Mar (GBV) and 25 Apr (PAR). Pine Siskins remained common across Kodiak, with juvs. noted by the end of the period. Siskins reached into the cen. Aleutians at Adak, where one seen 16 & 28 May was joined by a second 18 May (FH, BH). Siskins are casual in the Aleutians w. of Unalaska, where they have been irregular recently. A migrant Evening Grosbeak visited a Klawock feeder in s. Southeast 14-17 May (ph. BW), the season's lone observation of this very rare Southeast visitor. Another waif **House Sparrow** appeared at Gambell 13-17 May (ph. CI, RBB), the site of Alaska's second documented record in Jun 1993. Such birds probably come from one of the coastal communities not far to the w. in Russia.

Clarence Irrigoo found this migrant House Sparrow at Gambell, Alaska 13-24 (here 24) May 2013. This makes the second Gambell record of this species, which has established a small breeding population in Southeast Alaska, mainly around the Ketchikan area. This bird, however, probably originated from one of the Russian villages across the Bering Strait. *Photograph by David Mackay.*

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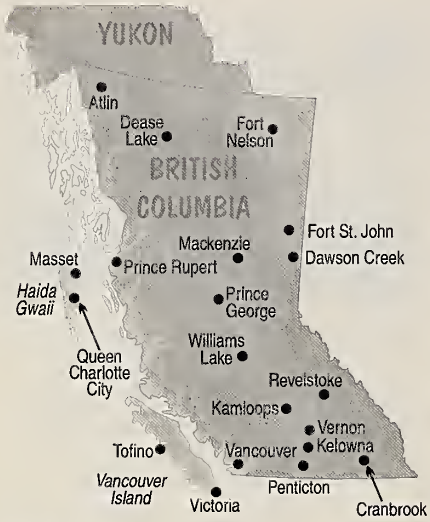
British Columbia



Chris Charlesworth

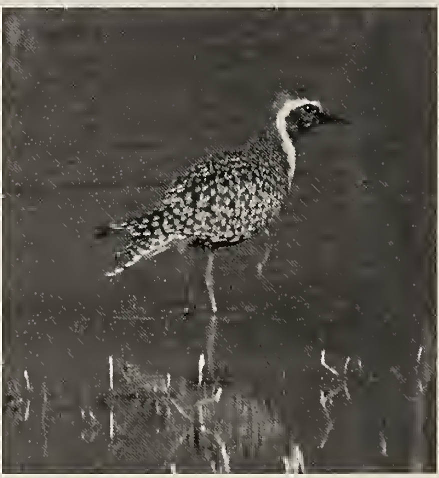
It was an active weather period for the Region. March temperatures were mostly below normal, with enough snow to keep snow packs topped up for the northern half of the province. Numerous showers fell over the southern half, and offshore waters were rather tempestuous, as the storm season continued with little abatement. April only showed grudging changes until the last week, when things started to warm up and dry out a bit, especially for the southeastern part of the province. The big change for the northern half came in May, with a rapid warm-up leading to a quick loss of the snow pack. However, a clipper during the third week of May generated a late season snowfall in the Fort Nelson area, a not uncommon occurrence there. The southern half was not so lucky, as a warm start came to a quick end as the jet stream along 49° N kept a constant parade of wet low-pressure systems moving across southern areas during the second half of the month. Offshore waters were unseasonably stormy through most of May.

WATERFOWL THROUGH ALCIDS

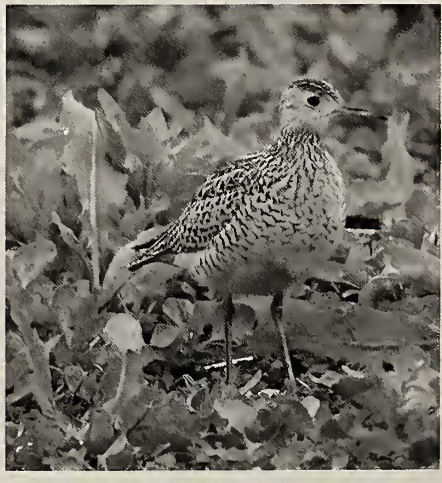
A rare sight anywhere in British Colubmia, an ad. Ross's Goose appeared with a dozen Snow Geese on Reade Lake, a private cattle pond between Cranbrook and Kimberley in the Kootenays 29 Apr (Dianne Cooper). On the West Coast of Vancouver Island, 2 Ross's Geese were at Long Beach with Canada Geese 6 Apr (AD). Exceedingly rare in recent years, a male Tufted Duck was a great find on Reade Lake near Cranbrook 23-27 May (GR, DC). In the Peace River area, a male Black Scoter was a nice find at Big Lake near Chetwynd 12-20 May (EP). Rare but annual on lakes across the Southern Interior, single Long-tailed Ducks showed up at Kilpoola Lake, w. of Osoyoos, where a male was seen 16 Apr (DB et al.), and a female appeared at the Castlegar Sewage Ponds 3 May (Janice Arndt). An impressive count of 5 Yellow-billed Loons was made at Perrey's Beach near Comox on Vancouver Island 4 Mar (JJ); another was seen on Vancouver Island at the Englishman River estuary near Qualicum 30 Apr (Randy Dzenkiw). At Penticton, up to 2 Great Egrets were noted along the oxbows of the Okanagan River 13 May (Tanya Luszcz et al.). Increasingly common are sightings of White-faced Ibis. A single White-faced Ibis was photographed on Mandarte Island off the s. end of Vancouver Island 31 May (Ryan Germain). Also on the s. end of Vancouver Island, a dark-morph Swainson's Hawk flew over Swan Lake, Victoria 31 May (CS). A few Gyrfalcons lingered in coastal locations into Mar, with one seen at the Second Narrows Bridge, Vancouver 10 May (DT). Two Gyrfalcons, an ad. and an imm., were seen along Cole Rd. in Chilliwack in the Fraser Valley 22 Mar (RT).

A Pacific Golden-Plover found at Robert Lake in Kelowna 3 May (RTo et al.) provides the first spring record for this species in the Okanagan Valley. Several Black-necked Stilts were reported throughout the province, with the 5 appearing at Reade Lake near Cranbrook 24 Apr being the first of the season (GB). Up to 5 were at Robert Lake by 8 May (MF). At Otter Lake near Vernon, an impressive 14 Black-necked Stilts were tallied 3 May (KF). In the Fraser Valley, one was found in farm fields in East Chilliwack 7 May (Janna Maljaars); and 3 appeared at the Fort St. John Sewage Lagoons 7 May, providing the first record for the Peace River area (EP). Two American Avocets that appeared at Robert Lake in Kelowna 30 Mar provide the earliest arrival date for this species in the province (CC et al.). In the Peace River area, an avocet was at Big Lake n. of Chetwynd 8 May (EP). Interior records of Willet are scarce, so one seen along the Columbia River at Revelstoke 26 May (RC) was of note. On the West Coast of Vancouver Island at Long Beach, a Willet was seen 23 Apr (Barry Campbell). At the Iona Sewage Ponds in Richmond, an Upland Sandpiper was seen by many 25-26 May (PJ, m.ob.). A Whimbrel seen at Robert Lake at Kelowna 6 May provides just one of a handful of records for this species in the Okanagan (RC, WW). In the Columbia Valley, about 15 s. of Revelstoke, a Whimbrel was seen 24 May (RC). In the Fraser Valley, a Hudsonian Godwit was seen in flooded fields along Banford Rd., Chilliwack 17 May (RT). Continuing the streak of rare birds this spring at Reade Lake near Cranbrook was a White-rumped Sandpiper seen 28-29 May (GB et al.). Two Dunlins molting into breeding plumage were at Robert Lake, Kelowna 4 Apr (JL, JG). Exceedingly rare in British Columbia in the spring season, a Stilt Sandpiper was at Reade Lake near Cranbrook 25 May (LVD).

At the Kelowna Landfill, 2 ad. Sabine's Gulls were discovered 29 Apr and remained until 3 May (RTo, RC, m.ob.). An unprecedented flock of **100** Sabine's Gulls were seen on Arrow Lake in the Kootenays at Nakusp 23 May (GD). Perhaps the same flock, another 100 Sabine's Gulls were noted on Okanagan Lake in Kelowna at the mouth of Mission Creek 29 May (RTo). In the South Okanagan, an imm. Sabine's Gull was seen at Deadman's Lake near Oliver 29 May (Peter Lypkie, DB et al.). The usual smattering of reports of Franklin's Gulls came in from various interior locations, with 3 along Kootenay River Rd. near Creston 22 May (GB). Up to 5 were in a horse pasture



Robert Lake in Kelowna, British Columbia produced the Okanagan Valley's first spring record of Pacific Golden-Plover, photographed here 3 May 2013. ***Photograph by Amin Zorgor.***



This handsome Upland Sandpiper was seen by many at the famous Iona Island Sewage Ponds near Vancouver 26 May 2013. ***Photograph by Michelle Lamberson.***

along Road 22 n. of Osoyoos 18 May (TM), and up to 6 were along the shore of Okanagan Lake, Penticton 23 May (LN et al.). A first-cycle Kumlien's Iceland Gull was at Robert Lake, Kelowna 22-24 Mar (CC, CS et al.); another was in fields in Chilliwack along Banford Rd. 15 Apr (GG). An ad. Forster's Tern was seen at the mouth of Mission Creek, Kelowna 29 Apr (RTo); the first to visit Robert Lake, Kelowna was noted 30 May (KF).

OWLS THROUGH FINCHES

An unbanded Burrowing Owl was found on the Sugarcane First Nations Reserve, e. of Williams Lake, 31 Mar (PR). After another irruption winter for Snowy Owls, up to 9 remained at Boundary Bay 13 Mar (SK). Ruby-throated Hummingbird is a Regional rarity, found with some regularity at only one location in the Peace Region, Johnson Rd. in Taylor Flats, where one was seen 31 May (PJ). In Vancouver, a male Calliope Hummingbird was seen displaying in Queen Elizabeth Park 28 Apr (JK). Two female Calliopes were watched as they sparred with one another at Burnaby Mountain Park 8 May (DP).

A Black Phoebe was seen at Comber's Beach near Tofino, Vancouver Island 24 Apr (AD, Karen Ferguson). Another was in the Fraser Valley at Abbotsford 28 Apr (RT). This spring produced three Loggerhead Shrike sightings, with the first being an ad. along Kosikar Rd. in Chilliwack 21 Mar (RT). Another was at Revelstoke 26 May (RC et al.), and the last was at the Squamish River estuary 27 May (Chris Dale). In North Delta, a Western Scrub-Jay was seen briefly at the corner of 95th Avenue and Grant Place 30 Mar (KL). A Blue Jay put in an appearance at Sardis in the Fraser Valley 19 Apr (GG). Canada's first **Citrine Wagtail**, first seen in early Nov 2012, remained through at least 25 Mar and was seen by thousands of birders during its stay in farm fields near Comox (Dave & Adele Routledge, m.ob.). Rare on the Lower Mainland, a Mountain Chickadee was a good find at Maplewood Flats in North Vancouver 2 Apr (RL et al.); this apparently represents just the second record for this heavily birded park. A bird fitting the description of a Winter Wren was found along the Galloping Goose Trail in Victoria 24 Apr (v.r. IC). The bird was well documented with sound recordings of its call notes supporting the identification. Canada's first **Red-flanked Bluetail**, discovered in Jan, remained at Queen's Park in New Westminster until at least 20 Mar (Colin McKenzie, m.ob.), also seen by numerous observers.

In the West Kootenay town of Edgewood, a Northern Mockingbird was seen 24 May (JG). A Sage Thrasher, a rare visitor to coastal British Columbia, appeared at Iona Beach Regional Park in Richmond 11 May (Paul Levesque). A Hermit Warbler visited Emory Creek Provincial Park near Hope 4 May (RT). The most commonly reported "eastern" warbler in the Vancouver area, a Palm Warbler was seen with a mixed flock of Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped warblers at Richmond Nature Park 21-22 Apr (ST). Other Palms were at Nanaimo River Estuary, Vancouver Island 3-4 Mar (RCa) and atop Beacon Hill, Victoria 1 Apr (Alan MacLeod et al.). Rare anywhere in British Columbia away from the Peace River area, a female Black-and-white Warbler was seen along the Columbia River at Revelstoke 25 May (RC).

A male Black-throated Sparrow was seen singing on the sage-covered benches w. of the town of Osoyoos 30 May (RC, DCa). Another was at Hope Airport 12 May (RT). In the South Okanagan, a Sagebrush Sparrow appeared briefly with a mixed flock of migrant sparrows at Kilpoola Lake, w. of Osoyoos, 27 Apr (DB). A male Lark Bunting appeared in a grassy field near Edgewood in the West Kootenay 21 May (JG). In British Columbia, Lark Sparrows are rare away from the Thompson/Okanagan area, so one found at the Iona Sewage Ponds in Richmond 20 May (Margaret Butschler, m.ob.) was a noteworthy find. Wintering Harris's Sparrows lingered through into the spring period, with an imm. continuing into early Mar at a private feeder in East Richmond (JT). Another visited a feeder in Lardeau in the Kootenays 24 & 26 May (Marlene Johnston). On Vancouver Island, an ad. Harris's came to a feeder in Courtenay 21-26 Apr (*fide* Mike Yip). One of the more exciting finds of the period was a female Dickcissel at a feeder in Ladner 20-28 Apr (Douglas Bamford, m.ob.). As is often the case with extralimital/unseasonable Dickcissels, the bird associated with a flock of House Sparrows and visited several different properties in the neighborhood during its stay. A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was photographed at Johnston's Landing in the West Kootenays 19 May (Gail Spitler). Another, a second-year male, was at Hope Airport 22 May (RT), where 2 Indigo Buntings accompanied a migrant flock of Lazuli Buntings 30-31 May as well (RT).

At Salmon Arm, a Common Grackle was seen foraging on the lawn of a private residence 20 May (TH). A gorgeous male **Hooded Oriole** was photographed at a feeder in Powell River 13 Apr but was not seen again (Bob & Rita Valine). Two Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches entertained birders at Cecil Green Park at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver 24 Mar (BD). In the Okanagan, where Purple

Ash-throated Flycatcher appears almost annually somewhere in British Columbia; this bird was photographed 23 May 2013 in the Fraser Valley at Agassiz. *Photograph by Kevin Jones.*

Frustratingly rare in British Columbia, this Black-throated Sparrow appeared west of Osoyoos 30 May 2013. *Photograph by Dick Cannings.*

Very rare in the British Columbia interior, a male Lark Bunting was a fantastic find at Edgewood 21 May 2013. *Photograph by Jeremy Gatten.*

A Dickcissel entertained Vancouver birders during its stay of several days at Ladner 20-28 (here 22) April 2013. *Photograph by John Gordon.*

Finches are rare, a female found at Kalamoir Park on Kelowna's Westside 12 Mar remained until 17 Mar (CC, RTo et al.). A group of up to 10 Pine Grosbeaks at Burnaby Mountain thrilled Lower Mainland birders until at least 4 Apr (DT). The Brambling invasion of winter carried on into the spring period, with a male along 17th Avenue in Vancouver remaining through at least 29 Mar. At Saanich, on Vancouver Island, a male Brambling remained from Jan until least 23 Mar (JG).

Observers: Gary Breault, Doug Brown, Dick Cannings, Russell Cannings, Ryan Cathers, Chris Charlesworth, Dianne Cooper, Adrian Dorst, Ian Cruickshank, Brent Daikow, Gary Davidson, Kyle Fitzpatrick, Michael Force, Gord Gadsden, Jeremy Gatten, Jim Ginns, Ted Hillary, Jukka Jantunen, Pablo Jost, Jeremiah Kennedy, Sandra Kinsey, Janna Leslie, Kevin Louth, Rob Lyske, Thor Manson, Laure Neish, Dan Peterson, Evan Pye, Phil Ranson, Greg Ross, Chris Saunders, Chris Siddle, John Tabak, Sharon Toochin, Rick Toochin, Ryan Tomlinson, Danny Tyson, Linda Van Damme, Wayne Weber.

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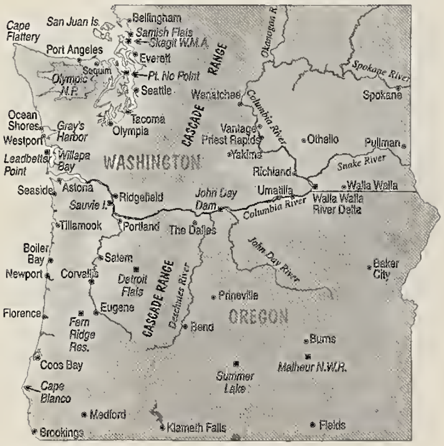
Oregon & Washington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San Juan Is.
Bellingham
Samish Flats
Skagit W.M.A.
Port Angeles
Everett
Sequim
Olympic N.P.
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Seattle
CASCADE RANGE
Okanogan R.
Spokane River
Spokane
Wenatchee
Columbia River
Ocean Shores
Gray's Harbor
Westport
Tacoma
Olympia
Vantage
Priest Rapids
Othello
Pullman
Leadbetter Point
Willapa Bay
WASHINGTON
Yakima
Richland
Snake River
Seaside
Astoria
Ridgefield
John Day Dam
Umatilla
Walla Walla
Walla Walla River Delta
Sauvie I.
Columbia River
Tillamook
Portland
The Dalles
Boiler Bay
Salem
John Day River
Baker City
Newport
Corvallis
Detroit Flats
CASCADE RANGE
Deschutes River
Prineville
Florence
Eugene
OREGON
Fern Ridge Res.
Bend
Burns
Coos Bay
Malheur N.W.R.
Summer Lake
Cape Blanco
Medford
Klamath Falls
Fields
Brookings

David Irons
Brad Waggoner
Ryan Merrill

After five straight springs of colder-and wetter-than-normal conditions, the weather was downright pleasant Regionwide. Temperatures and precipitation for each month were near normal. A stretch of warm and dry conditions in May offered a welcome contrast to the birding conditions that have plagued this month over the past few years. However, mild weather made for a lackluster May migration, with reduced numbers and a shortage of oddities. By the end of the period, experienced observers grumbled about the lack of nasty weather and the fallouts it can produce.

As might be expected, lovely spring conditions resulted in many early arrivals. A major coastal flight 23-25 April produced some of the highest-ever Oregon counts for several species. Offshore coverage was strong again this year, even though there were only two traditional pelagic trips, both off Westport. A nine-day NOAA Northwest Fisheries research cruise and reports from four cruise ships supplemented the offshore reporting. Two new birds for Oregon highlight the boldfaced species in this report.

Abbreviations: F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Reservoir W.M.A.); McNary (McNary N.W.R., *Walla Walla*); Nisqually (Nisqually N.W.R., *Thurston*, WA); N.S.C.B. (North Spit Coos Bay, *Coos*); P.T. (Puget Trough); W.V. (Willamette Valley); W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla River delta, *Walla Walla*).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAILS

Northbound Snow Geese tarried into mid-May in both states, with the latest at Calispell Lake, *Pend Oreille* 21 May (JI). A blue-morph Snow Goose visited McNary 1 Mar (M&MLD); there are only about 15 previous records for this morph in e. Washington. Surprisingly, no Blues were detected on the westside this spring. Within the Region, numbers of Ross's Geese are generally limited to the Klamath, Summer Lake, and Harney Basins, but this season's showing away from these favored sites was spectacular. A flock of 149 at Ladd Marsh W.M.A., *Union* 14 Apr (TB) was utterly unprecedented for ne. Oregon. A near-record 60, including a maximum of 30 at Oaksdale, *Whitman* 21 Apr (R. Woodruff), were noted in e. Washington; 2 at Sacheen Lake, *Pend Oreille* 18 May (T. Little) were e. Washington's latest. Nine Ross's on the westside 8 Mar–5 May was more than twice the norm. An overwintering Brant remained at Fernhill Wetlands through 24 Apr (S. Nord), and another inhabited Woodland Bottoms, *Cowlitz* 15-16 Apr (J. Jendro); this species is barely annual away from salt water. Swans lingering into May have become the norm. A Trumpeter Swan remained near Monroe, *Snohomish* 8 May+ (RM, m.ob.), and single Tundra Swans were at Wilson Creek, *Grant* 14 May (BT) and Colville, *Stevens* 17-18 May (W. Current).

On par with the past five years, 33 Eurasian Wigeons were noted in e. Washington, including a tardy bird at Clear Lake, *Yakima* 20 May (AS). Hybrid dabbling ducks included a Mallard × American Wigeon at Gorst, *Kitsap* 10-17 Mar (C. Hesselein), a Mallard × Northern Pintail near Randle, *Lewis* 14 Apr (CW, BT, RS), and single Blue-winged Teal × Cinnamon Teal at Woodland Bottoms, *Cowlitz* 16 Mar (CW, RS) and Rock Lake, *Whitman* 25 Apr–5 May (M. Clarke); all of these crosses are now detected annually in the Region. Eurasian Teal are less frequently reported in recent years. Only 7 were noted on the westside 2 Mar–7 May, which may reflect the waning novelty of this taxon rather than an actual drop in the numbers visiting the Region; one at Ladd Marsh W.M.A. 14 Mar (TB) was on the eastside, where less than annual. Four Eurasian Teal × Green-winged Teal in w. Washington through 24 Mar, with none reported in Oregon, were similarly underwhelming. Nine Tufted Ducks, mostly winter holdovers, included one at Priest Rapids, *Yakima* through 18 May, record late for e. Washington (AS). Oregon's first **Common Eider**, a subad. male at Coos Bay 16 Mar–11 Apr (TR, ph. B. Taylor), was expected, as this species has occurred twice previously in both California and Washington. Photographs show it to be of the Pacific subspecies *v-nigra* (ph. O. Schmidt); the most recent California record (Nov 2011) involved a female of the w. North Atlantic *dresseri*, previously unrecorded in the Pacific Basin. Although modest numbers of Surf Scoters pass through the interior each fall, inland spring birds are decidedly rarer. One at Kamloops Island, *Stevens* 17 Mar (T. Durnell) was just the fourth such record for Washington since 2001, and another at Fish Lake, *Linn* 12-23 May (M. Nikas) was both late and equally surprising in the Oregon Cascades.

A Pacific Loon, not annual in spring in e. Washington, continued at Priest Rapids, *Yakima* through 23 Mar (K. Black). Six Yellow-billed Loons included a rare eastside bird at Pateros Lake, *Okanogan* 28 Mar (AS); there are only about a dozen prior records for e. Washington. A Red-necked Grebe at Rocky

Point on Upper Klamath Lake 26 May (K. Spencer) was the first breeding season report from this locale in at least four years; over the preceding 60 years, up to 10 pairs nested in this colony, the only one in Oregon.

Now annual in the Region, this spring's Short-tailed Albatross was a second-cycle bird at Grays Canyon off *Grays Harbor* 8 Mar (RM, SM, ph. C. Emmons). A Northern Fulmar, very rare in the P.T., was found dead at Samish Island, *Skagit* 24 Apr (N. Olson). Highlighting this spring's *Pterodroma* reports were a **Hawaiian Petrel** and 2 Hawaiian/Galapagos Petrels 60 km off Cape Blanco *Curry* 3 May (PL, ph. RM, BT, BW). The documentation of eight prior Hawaiian/Galapagos Petrels off Oregon has been insufficient to determine the species (presumed Hawaiian), but photographs of this Hawaiian seem likely to result in Oregon's first accepted record; Washington's lone Hawaiian Petrel came in Sep 2008. Single presumed **Cook's Petrels** were off *Curry* 16 Apr and 3 May (†PL). Mottled Petrel was recorded again this spring, this time with one off *Curry* 3 May (†PL, RM). Observers aboard cruise ships again reported numerous Murphy's Petrels, the Region's most expected spring *Pterodroma*; four passages 16 Apr–31 May produced 29 Murphy's in Oregon waters, including 20 off *Curry* 3 May (†PL, RM, BT, BW). Thirteen Manx Shearwaters included 6 total in *Tillamook*, *Pacific*, and *Clallam* during the 4-9 Mar NOAA cruise (RM, SM) and 6 more found during seabird surveys in the waters around Alexander and Destruction Islands, *Jefferson* 20 & 29 May (RM, A. Baker, A. Willoughby). The latter sightings further fuel speculation that Manx Shearwaters are nesting in the Region. An amazing concentration of **12,000** Leach's Storm-Petrels enlivened a 30-km stretch of ocean over the Quinalt and Quillayute Canyons, *Clallam/Jefferson* 10 May (PL); 600 was the prior record count of Leach's for Washington.

American White Pelicans are still rare n. of sw. Washington, so 12 at Nisqually 15 May (S. Thorp, W. Johnson) and 5 at Port Townsend, *Jefferson* 19 May (D. Grimmer) were noteworthy. White-faced Ibis showed well in e. Washington this spring, with 27 birds at seven locations 3-31 May, including a maximum of 19 at Tyson Ponds, *Walla Walla* 10 May (J. Terrell, S. Terrell). Eleven westside ibis 6-28 May included one in Washington, where they are not annual: one visited Seward Park, *King* 21 May (J. Hoffman). A **Broad-winged Hawk** flew over Bainbridge Island, *Kitsap* 1 May (†BW, †DW); Washington's six previous records of northbound Broad-wingeds span early Apr–early Jun. Sixteen westside Swainson's Hawks 23 Mar–11 May represents the new normal; 6 in one pasture at Lafayette, *Yamhill* 30 Apr (DI) and 4 outer-coastal birds highlighted this tally. An overwintering Ferruginous Hawk near McMinnville, *Yamhill* remained into early Mar (P. Sullivan), and another was on the coast at Sandlake, *Tillamook* 3 Apr (J. Rakestraw); this species is somewhat regular in the Rogue Valley but not quite annual elsewhere on the westside. Late-lingering Rough-legged Hawks included one near Stanwood, *Snohomish* 7-19 May (J. Adams) and another at Samish Flats, *Skagit* 7-23 May (RM); this species normally departs by late Apr.

SA The avian phenomenon of the season was the showing of Eared Grebes in Oregon's w. valleys. Although modest numbers winter along the coast and at reservoirs and sewage ponds inland, there is no appreciable movement through w. Oregon, as these birds depart for their breeding grounds. Five or more birds at any single site is the exception at any season, and yet, from 30 Mar–4 Apr, flocks of 20+ birds congregated at no fewer then seven locations in three counties, with daily maxima of 48 at Philomath, *Benton* 30 Mar (WDR), 40 at Teddy Roosevelt N.W.R. 3 Apr (S. Mauvais), and 33 at Emigrant Lake, *Jackson* 3 Apr (F. Lospalluto). Nineteen more in w. Washington 28 Mar–26 Apr included counts of 5 at Cathlamet Channel, *Wahkiakum* 12 Apr (A. Emlen) and 9 at Woodland Bottoms, *Cowlitz* 26 Apr (BW, DW, RM, RKo). Additionally, 64 Eared Grebes gathered at Bend's Hatfield Lake 7 Apr (P. Low); this cen. Oregon site is not a traditional migratory stopover for this species. The reason for this incursion is not apparent.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Three Black-bellied Plovers were at Tyson Ponds, *Walla Walla* 26 May, with one remaining through 31 May (P. Paulson); this species is less than annual in spring in e. Washington. No golden-plovers were detected in Washington this spring. A Snowy Plover at Hatfield Lake, *Deschutes* 25 May (L. Rems) adds to just a handful of eastside records away from breeding sites in the Harney Basin and Summer Lake areas and was just the third for heavily birded *Deschutes*. Ten Black-necked Stilts, rare in w. Washington, were noted at five locations and included 2 very rare coastal birds at Midway Beach, *Pacific* 5 May (K. Brown, D. Yorgason-Quinn). Although American Avocets are now annual on the westside in spring, few reach the coast, so one at Boiler Bay 23 Apr (PP) and one at Bayocean Spit, *Tillamook* 5 May (SF) were noteworthy; 4 more were in the W.V. 25-30 Apr. A Willet, rare at any time in the P.T., visited Minkler Flats, *Skagit* 25 May (K. Wiggers, J. Wiggers, GB). In e. Washington, where Willets are very rare as spring migrants, an astounding 5 were detected 2 Apr–12 May; one at Hood River 24 Apr (CK, PS) was equally surprising. In the W.V., where Whimbrels are now annual in spring, 8 were noted 2-9 May. Even though Whimbrels have appeared on the eastside in eight consecutive springs, one at Ladd Marsh 25 May (TB) was just the second record for *Union*. Six of the 9 Long-billed Curlews detected along the W.V.-to-P.T. corridor 4 Apr–14 May were together at Albany, *Linn* 14 May (J. Fleischer); the westside has averaged about 3 inland birds per spring over the past decade. A Hudsonian Godwit at Jackson Bottons 26 May (S. Halpern, L. Meserve, ph. S. Carpenter) was the Region's seventeenth northbound bird; this species has appeared in three consecutive springs. Six Marbled Godwits were away from the outer coast on the westside 1 Mar–3 May, including an overwintering bird at Belfair, *Mason* through 22 Apr (m.ob.). Forty Marbleds at Malheur 26 Apr (NS) was the largest northbound flock on the eastside since 2008; a few scattered birds is the norm. Three Red Knots, now

This adult Pomarine Jaeger was found at Banks Lake, Grant County, Washington 24 May 2013, the first spring record for east of the Cascades in Oregon and Washington. Eastside records of Pomarine Jaegers in these states are few, with previous records occurring late June through November. *Photograph by Jean Takekawa.*

nearly annual in the P.T. during spring, were at Sequim 31 May (A. Ashley). Two Sanderlings at Sprague Lake, *Lincoln* 22 May (JI) were in e. Washington, where not quite annual in spring. Thirteen northbound Semipalmated Sandpipers 24 Apr–27 May was more than triple the seasonal norm. Peak morning pulses of Western Sandpipers streaming past Boiler Bay 22-25 Apr approached 1000 per minute and the collective tally reported during this four-day stretch was near **400,000** birds (PP, WH). Five eastside Baird's Sandpipers 23 Apr–3 May (M&MLD) was a typical showing, while singles at the Tahkenitch Creek mouth, *Douglas* 16 Apr (D. Farrar) and Samish Flats 28 Apr (RM, E. Barber) were on the westside, where not detected annually; the Samish bird was about the twelfth spring record for w. Washington. Forty-three Pectoral Sandpipers 22 Apr–27 May was a superb spring count. Northbound birds are not detected annually in e. Washington, so 2 near Granger, *Yakima* 9 May (J. Hebert) and another at Colville, *Stevens* 25-27 May (R. Barton) were noteworthy. On 23 Apr an estimated **5000** dowitchers passed Boiler Bay (PP), far surpassing any prior tally for either species along the Oregon coast. Given the date, these birds were presumed to be mostly if not all Short-billed Dowitchers; 600 birds at Boiler Bay on 3 May 2010 was the previous Oregon record for this species. A wayward Wilson's Phalarope at Neah Bay, *Clallam* 26 May (NB) was noteworthy for the nw. coast of Washington.

Spring records of northbound Sabine's Gull in e. Washington are few, so one at W.W.R.D. 3 May (M&MLD) was noteworthy; the most recent reports from e. Washington came during an inexplicable event in late May 2008, which involved several hundred birds in a handful of flocks. Oregon's inshore flight of Bonaparte's Gulls was the best in decades; seawatches conducted 22-25 Apr tallied thousands from several sites. High counts included a feeding flock of **10,000** at Port Orford, *Curry* 23 Apr (L. Miller), **3000** per hour passing Coos Bay 24 Apr (TR) and an estimated **35,000** flying past Boiler Bay on 25 Apr (PP). Franklin's Gulls again showed well in e. Washington, with 25 tallied 3-24 May; prior to 2007, 5 per spring was considered average for this area. Two Franklin's at Boiler Bay 25 Apr (PP) were the only westside birds. An overwintering Heermann's Gull remained at Seattle through 19 Mar (m.ob.), and another at Point Hudson, *Jefferson* 13 Apr was presumed to have overwintered (D. Paulson, N. Smith); this species normally arrives in the P.T. during Jun. Single first-cycle and ad. Iceland Gulls that wintered at Clarkston, *Asotin* were last seen 13 Mar and 3 Apr, respectively (m.ob.); these add to 20 accepted records for Washington. A Lesser Black-backed Gull, now annual in e. Washington, was near Clarkston, *Asotin* 12 Mar (JI). A Slaty-backed Gull continued from winter at Tacoma through 4 Apr (m.ob.). About par for recent springs, 20 westside Glaucous Gulls were noted, with the latest—about a month late—at Port Angeles 21 May (RM); all 3 eastside Glaucous were in Washington.

Although Costa's Hummingbird is recorded annually in neighboring Oregon, fewer than 10 have been recorded in Washington. This one, discovered at Lyle, Klickitat County 15 (here 26) April 2013, remained into summer. *Photograph by Brad Waggoner.*

Normally rare during spring in w. Washington, 11 Black Terns were detected at five locations 22 May+; Oregon's only noteworthy report was a rare coastal bird at N.S.C.B. 5 May (TR). A **Pomarine Jaeger** at Banks Lake, *Grant* 24 May (ph. J. Takekawa, E. Forner) provided the first-ever spring record from e. of the Cascades; the handful of previous eastside records for this species span late Jun–Nov. A Parasitic Jaeger, rare during spring in the P.T., was at Semiahmoo, *Whatcom* 26 May (P. Calise). An **Arctic Tern** at Bonneville Dam, *Multnomah* 12 Apr (ph. AH, ph. CH, G. Fredricks) was truly astounding, as there are virtually no spring season inland records for the Region. The overwintering **Thick-billed Murre** at Port Angeles remained through 6 Mar (m.ob.), and a breeding-plumaged ad. was just off Boiler Bay 23 Apr (†PP); there are very few Regional records beyond Feb. While speculative explanations abound, the provenance of a dead Cassin's Auklet found at Portland's Mount Tabor 10 Apr (A. Miller, L. Clark) will remain a mystery. Although significant numbers of Parakeet Auklets are now known to spend the late winter and early spring 50+ km offshore, unprecedented counts closer to shore the past two springs are again reshaping our notion of this species' status in the Region. A Regional record **1503** were noted over Grays Canyon, *Grays Harbor* 8 Mar (RM, SM), and at least **500** massed 6-13 km off *Curry* 2 Mar (RM). Single live Horned Puffins were noted from Ediz Hook, *Clallam* 3 Mar (F. Hands, D. Yorgason-Quinn), Florence, *Lane* 8 Mar (DP), and Boiler Bay 23 Apr (PP). The Regional average is about one per spring.

Washington's tenth **White-winged Dove** was near Birch Bay, *Whatcom* 2 May (†E. Guzman), and another at Langlois, *Curry* 13 May (KA) adds to about 25 prior Oregon records; all detections have been May–Nov. Lingering Snowy Owls from this winter's "echo invasion" included 11 in w. Washington through 19 Apr and 5 in e. Washington, including very late singles at Odessa, *Lincoln* through 20 May (*fide* J. Stuart) and Tekoa Prairie, *Whitman* 4 May+ (ph. C. Lundblad). The wintering Great Gray Owl near Redmond, *King* remained through 17 Mar (E. Corell, V. Corell), and another lowland bird was at Roseburg 4 Mar (K. Brodhead); this species rarely strays down into the westside valleys. A Common Nighthawk at Edmonds, *Snohomish* 1 May (DD) tied the previous record early date for Washington.

Experienced observers offered compelling reports of two separate **Chimney Swifts** from Oregon; these would represent the first records (p.a.) for a species long expected in the Region. The initial report involved a bird seen and heard in direct comparison with hundreds of Vaux's Swifts at a Roseburg roost on 11 May (ph., †MH). The second presumed Chimney Swift was seen, but not heard, at Baskett Slough N.W.R. 29 May, at close range in the company of a small group of Vaux's and was described as being "obviously larger" with a darker rump and throat (†WDR). A Black-chinned Hummingbird, extremely rare in w. Washington and especially the lowlands, graced Concrete, *Skagit* 28 May (ph. B. Bridge); most w. Washington records of this species are from e. *Skamania*. A male **Anna's Hummingbird × Rufous Hummingbird** hybrid graced Lyle, *Klickitat* 11-23 May (†BT, ph. J. Rasmussen), providing only the second documented record for this cross in Washington. Washington's ninth **Costa's Hummingbird** inhabited Lyle 15 Apr+ (ph. J. Rasmussen); all but two records have been from spring, with most occurring in May. In Oregon, where Costa's is annual, a male visited Eugene 29 May (MN). Settled weather in the latter part of the period may explain the comparative dearth of Calliope Hummingbirds in the westside lowlands, where 30+ per spring has been the norm since 2000. Only 19 were detected 29 Mar–23 May, and few seemed to linger more than a day or two. When Apr–May weather is cold and wet, individual Calliopes often persist at lowland feeders for days and even weeks at a time. A Lewis's Woodpecker, not annual in w. Washington during spring, graced Tenino, *Thurston* 5 May (J. Dlugo); another Lewis's at Portland 2 May (P. Newland) made the only report from the W.V., where once common. An Acorn Woodpecker, very rare in w. Washington, was at Seattle 15 May (C. Ramamurti); prior to an irruptive event in 2010, when an astounding 10 were detected, there were only six total records for w. Washington. The tenth **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** for Washington graced Darrington, *Skagit* 31 Mar–15 Apr (ph. G. Aslanian, S. Aslanian), and the state's eleventh was at Yakima 4 Apr (ph. E. Heisey). Two more Yellow-bellieds 1-30 Mar were in Oregon, where annual during winter and early spring; most of the Region's records fall Dec–Apr. Four Gyrfalcons in Washington through 6 Apr represented a typical spring. Single Merlin of subspecies *richardsoni*, now recorded annually in the Region, were reported from Newport 13 Apr (DI, SF) and Cascade Locks, *Hood River* 19 Apr (JW).

PASSERINES

A Hammond's Flycatcher at Chambers Lake, *Pierce* 13 Apr (ph. M. Charest) was nearly record early for Washington; the earliest record is 8 Apr 2009. Four Gray Flycatchers in the westside lowlands 20 Apr–4 May were all in Oregon, were 2-3 per spring is typical. The westside showing of Dusky Flycatchers was modest and likely also attributable to mild Apr–May weather. Just 16 were detected, with 12 of those in w. Washington 29 Apr–22 May, including a maximum of 4 near Puyallup, *Pierce* 6 May (CW); 30+ had been noted from w. Washington in each of the past two springs. Six Black Phoebe detections at five locations n. of their recent foothold in sw. Washington this spring was impressive and included *Clallam's* first at the mouth of the Elwha River 23-25 Mar (J. Sleight). A Black Phoebe at Malheur 27 May (L. Skalnes) is at least the sixth for *Harney*, where this species was unknown a decade ago. Single **Eastern Phoebes** at Calispell Lake, *Pend Orielle* 21 May+ (ph. JI) and at Dixonville, *Douglas* 31 May (ph. MH) were Washington's twelfth and Oregon's sixteenth, respectively; 5 Eastern Phoebes have been recorded in Washington since 2011. Say's Phoebes showed well on the westside, particularly in Washington, where 14 of this season's 20 were detected 2 Mar+; spring Say's have increased dramatically in w. Washington over the past six years. The latest, at Van Horn Ponds, *Skagit* 19 May (GB), was more than a month after the main flight. Two Ash-throated Flycatchers were in the W.V., where rare but annual May–Jun. A migrant stopped at Eugene 30 Apr (L. Ferrenburg), while another called persistently at Peterson Butte near Lebanon, *Linn* 31 May (J. Geier); unpaired Ash-throateds occasionally summer in the s. W.V., where there are still patches of vanishing oak savanna. A Western Kingbird, now rare but annual on the Washington coast, was near Tokeland, *Pacific* 18 May (RM, RS, CW, A. Meyer).

Four westside Loggerhead Shrikes 9 Apr–14 May, included *Kitsap's* first near Kingston 30 Apr (ph. BW); this species is not annual during spring in w. Washington. A Red-eyed Vireo at Stillwater, *King* 11 May (J. Tubbs) was about two weeks early. In w. Washington, where Blue Jays are not annual during spring, 2 were at P.N.P. 11 May, with one remaining there 19 May (VN). Six eastside Blue Jays 7 Apr–1 May were evenly divided between the states. Single Black-billed Magpies were noted at Montlake Fill, *King* 9 Mar (C. Sidles), Edmonds, *Snohomish* 10 Mar (*fide* C. Riddell), and Discovery Park, *King* 17 Mar (E. Houston); this species is normally very rare for w. Washington, but one or 2 wandering birds have been noted in most reporting periods over the past four years. Nine Mountain Chickadees in the w. Oregon lowlands 10 Mar–17 Apr included 4 on the outer coast, where less expected; as was true during the winter season, this westside mini-irruption was not detected in Washington. A Rock Wren at Westport, *Grays Harbor* 19 May (ph. BS) was noteworthy for a coastal location and for such a late spring date; this species is rare at anytime in lowland w. Washington, and spring records are few. A House Wren at Hawk C. G., *Lincoln* 29 Mar was about three weeks early for e. Washington (RK). The long-staying Wrentit persisted through another season at the Sandy River mouth (m.ob.), where it is far removed from any known population; another stray at Tualatin 15 May (B. Evans) provided a long-anticipated first record for *Washington*.

Once again, Mountain Bluebirds flooded through the upper Skagit River valley, *Skagit*, with a maximum of 26 at Corkindale 16 Apr (RM). This rich migration corridor has received more extensive coverage in the past five years. Fourteen were noted elsewhere in w. Washington 4 Apr–10 May, including 6 at three coastal locations; surprisingly, no Mountain Bluebirds were noted in w. Oregon. A Gray Catbird was at Corkindale, *Skagit* 31 May (RM); though very rare in w. Washington, catbirds have been detected at this location since 2010. Three more migrant catbirds were reported from *Harney* 26-31 May. Nine Northern Mockingbirds 3 Mar+ were almost evenly divided e. and w. of the Cascades, but none were found in e. Washington. Sage Thrashers again showed well in w. Washington, with 5 detected 27 Apr–25 May; this species is now nearly annual there in spring. A **California Thrasher** seen and heard singing just n. of the California line at Lower Klamath N.W.R. 18 Apr (†B. Massey, T. Philippe) made Oregon's third record.

After more than four months, the popular Ovenbird wintering at Portland was last seen 11 Apr (S. Hannam). The season's lone northbound Northern Waterthrush was at Malheur 28 May (M&MLD). Three Black-and-white Warblers included singles at Malheur 15 (T. Blount) & 26 May (T. Hynes) and a less-expected westside bird at Portland 26 May (AH, CH). Tennessee Warblers showed well, with 3 in *Harney* 2-26 May; one per spring is typical. A spectacular fallout of 500 Orange-crowned Warblers poured through Ashland's North Mountain Park, *Jackson* 13 Apr (B. Arrigoni); apparently a gap in the mountains along the California/Oregon border serves to funnel migrants through this area. Milder mid-season weather than normal may well explain the early arrival of several warblers in Washington, including a Nashville Warbler at Richland, *Benton* 1 Apr (*fide* MLD), an American Redstart at Rimrock Lake, *Yakima* 12 May (A. Thornton), and a Wilson's Warbler at Wawawai Canyon, *Whitman* 8 Apr (M. Clarke). As is typical, 2 northbound American Redstarts passed through *Harney* oases in late May, and another was found 31 May on the westside at Cascade Head (PP), where now near annual. Northbound Black-throated Blue Warblers rarely appear in the Region before the last week of May, with most reported from *Harney*; thus one at Cape Blanco 14 May (TJW) was doubly unusual. More expected were a female Black-throated Blue at Malheur 26 May (ph. T. Meinzn) and a male s. of Fields, *Harney* 31 May (B. Archer). Ten Palm Warblers in w. Oregon 3 Mar–15 May was above normal. The apparent comeback of Yellow-breasted Chats in w. Washington continues, as evidenced by *Island's* first at Iversen Spit 26-27 May (T. Brennan) and another at Corkindale 30 May (RK).

A California Towhee at Dixonville, *Douglas* 31 May (MH) represents the northernmost report of this species in perhaps two decades. One or 2 birds could be found in se. Roseburg into the mid-1980s, but the patches of Narrowleafed Buckbrush (*Ceanothus cuneatus*) the towhees inhabited was long ago replaced by Roseburg's advancing suburban footprint. Each state hosted a westside Clay-colored Sparrow, with one at Sauvie Island, *Multnomah/Columbia* 2-17 Mar (C. Bennett, S. Schlick) and another at Diablo, *Whatcom* 23 May (RM); there are only a few spring records for w. Washington. Desert sparrows continue to find the disturbed semi-industrial landscape surrounding the Troutdale, *Multnomah* airport to their liking; Brewer's Sparrow showed up for the second straight spring, with one there 4 Apr (AH, CH, ES). Migrant Vesper Sparrows have been considered rare away from their few w. Washington breeding locations; 4 detected 4-31 May was a drop-off from recent springs but included a rare coastal bird at Neah Bay, *Clallam* 26 May (NB). A Vesper at Astoria 27 Apr (L. Cain) was a rare stray to the n. Oregon coast. Six westside Lark Sparrows 24 Apr–18 May included an unprecedented 4 in w. Washington. A Black-throated Sparrow returned to the occasional breeding outpost at Vantage, *Kittitas* 31 May (R. Saunders). Additional desert sparrows on the westside included a Black-throated in se. Portland 25 May (C. Carter) and a Sage Sparrow at F.R.R. 26 Apr (JS). A well-marked Red Fox Sparrow (*iliaca* subspecies group) visited a Florence feeder 3 Apr (ph. DP). Three wintering Swamp Sparrows were re-located during the spring in w. Washington; the latest remained at Neah Bay, *Clallam* through 6 Apr (T. Signor). Six Harris's Sparrows 23 Mar–12 May was slightly above the long-term average; the Region has traditionally averaged about 5 per spring, but only 2-3 per season have been reported in recent years. Rare for far e. Washington, 3 Golden-crowned Sparrows were at Davenport, *Lincoln* 3 May (JI). A Golden-crowned × White-crowned Sparrow hybrid was at Seattle 21 Apr (J. Gunn). The Region's first **Little Bunting**, which disappeared several days after it was found in Jan, reappeared in the same Joseph, *Wallowa* neighborhood 25 Mar (ph. AH, ph. CH, ES) and was seen sporadically through 17 Apr (m.ob.).

Two Eastern Phoebes were noted in the Oregon and Washington region in spring 2013, including this bird at Dixonville, Douglas County, Oregon 31 May. There are now 28 records of the species for this region; prior to 2000, the region had just eight records. *Photograph by Matt Hunter.*

An ad. male Summer Tanager brightened Malheur 30 May (ph. S. Wright); about two-thirds of Oregon's 20 records have come May–Jun. Six Rose-breasted Grosbeaks 26 May+ was a typical showing; one at Vancouver, *Clark* 30 May (ph. B. Hitler) was the only report from Washington. A female **Blue Grosbeak** near Gleneden Beach, *Lincoln* 19 May (†D. Faxon) adds to 10 prior Oregon records. Six Indigo Buntings, annual in the Region May–Jul, included one in Washington near Skamokawa, *Wahkiakum* 16-17 May (ph. B. McNully). Washington has roughly 35 records with most having occurred Jun–Jul, whereas Oregon has averaged about 5 Indigos per year over the past decade. A displaying male Tricolored Blackbird at Sprague Lake, *Lincoln* 9 Apr, along with 14 noted there 17 May (JI), and one at Toppenish N.W.R. 9-10 May (ph. K. Lucas) were away from known breeding colonies in *Whitman* and *Grant*; this species first appeared in s.-cen. Washington in 2003. A wintering Rusty Blackbird at Ashland, last seen 2 Mar (T. Shelmerdine), plus 2 more at Wallula, *Walla Walla* 2-21 Mar (M&MLD), provided rare spring records; most Rusties are found mid-Oct–late Jan. Two **Common Grackles**, a male and female, inhabited Potholes S.P., *Grant* 11-18 May (P. Lehman, m.ob.); only one of Washington's previous 16 records (most Mar–Jul) involved a pair. Another Common Grackle was s. of Chemult, *Klamath* 15 May (F. Schrock); Oregon has about 32 records, with all but six falling Apr–Jul. A **Great-tailed Grackle** at Naselle, *Pacific* 29 May (ph. D. Hall, M. Hall) provided only the ninth record for Washington. Five Oregon Great-taileds 26 Apr+ was a normal showing; one at Tualatin N.W.R., *Washington* 26 Apr (JW, D. Smith) and another at Rickreall, *Polk* 30 May (B. Wagner) were in the W.V., where not quite annual. A **Baltimore Oriole** found dead at Kennewick, *Benton* 8 May (C. Herber, ph. L. Tompkins) provided Washington's fifth record; all but one record, from early Nov 1975, span 31 May–22 Jun. A male Baltimore Oriole near Hermiston 30 May (SS) was the only report from Oregon, where this species is detected annually May–Jun.

Pine Grosbeaks are rare visitors to westside lowlands, but this spring 4 were noted at three locations 17 Mar–7 Apr. A continuation from winter, Purple Finches were again in far e. Washington, where rare. One was at College Place, *Walla Walla* 16 Mar (M&MLD), 3 lingered at Fish Hook Park, *Walla Walla* 34 Mar (M&MLD), and one was at Lyons Ferry Park, *Franklin* 18 May (M&MLD). Rare in w. Washington lowlands, 3 White-winged Crossbills graced Orcas Island, *San Juan* 29 Mar (ph. RS, RM, T. Mansfield), and 2 were at Darrington, *Skagit* 1-7 Apr (RM); fair numbers suggestive of a mini-irruption did show in the lowlands this past winter. Small numbers of Common Redpolls from the winter incursion remained well into Mar, with the latest at Carlton, *Yamhill* 21 Apr (JW). Lesser Goldfinches continued to explode across the eastside away from their traditional e. Washington haunts in *Klickitat* and their recently established sites in se. Washington; northerly birds included *Lincoln*'s first record, of 2 at Davenport 6 May (JI), plus one in Spokane 19 May (D. Holick). Conversely, the only w. Washington reports away from *Clark* were 2 near Puyallup, *Pierce* 2-4 May (CW), near where this species bred last year. Two Lessers n. of Florence 20 May (DP) were out of place in coastal *Lane*; along the outer coast, the range of this species extends n. to *Coos*.

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Pt. St. Georga
Crescent City
Klamath R.
Yreka
Klamath Basin Rafugas
Warner Mts.
CASCADE RANGE
Arcata
Euraka
Radding
Lake Almanor
Honey Lake
Coast Range
Chico
Fort Bragg
Sacramanto Valley Rafuges
L. TAHOE
Point Arena
Clear Lake
SIERRA NEVADA
Bodega Bay
Santa Rosa
Sacramento
Mono Lake
Pt. Reyes
Stockton
Berkeley
Cordell Bank
San Francisco
Oakland
Modasto
Yosemite NP
S.E. Farallon Is.
San Josa
San Joaquin Valley Refuges
Oasis
Diablo Range
Kings Canyon NP
Santa Cruz
Monterey Bay
Fresno
Monteray
Salinas
Sequoia NP
Big Sur
Tulare Lake Basin
Davidson Seamount

Stephen C. Rottenborn
Michael M. Rogers
Jeff N. Davis
Ed Pandolfino

Unusually dry conditions continued throughout the spring. At Southeast Farallon Island, strong winds and associatedLace upwelling persisted, resulting in high ocean productivity and abundant prey resources for breeding seabirds. Birders took advantage of repositioning cruises in unprecedented numbers, resulting in good coverage 45-85 kilometers offshore and some high counts of gadfly petrels and other pelagic species. Landbird vagrants were sparse in the northwest, but Southeast Farallon Island reported the highest number and diversity of songbirds in spring since 2002. Highlights included the Region's first Inca Dove, second Eastern Whip-poor-will, and continuing Northern Gannet and Common Black-Hawk.

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (California B.R.C.); C.R.P. (Cosumnes River Preserve, *Sacramento*); C.V. (Central Valley); F.I. (Southeast Farallon Island, *San Francisco*); H.R.S. (Hayward R.S., *Alameda*); Point Blue (Point Blue Conservation Science); *S.F.* (San Francisco, not State Forest). Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are not published. Documentation of C.B.R.C. review species will be forwarded to Guy McCaskie, Secretary, P. O. Box 275, Imperial Beach, CA 91933.

WATERFOWL THROUGH TURKEY

A count of at least 8 blue-morph Ross's Geese at Merced N.W.R., *Merced* 17 Mar (CKf) tied the Regional high count in our notebooks; 8 were also found at the same location 21 Mar 2007. An inland Brant at O'Neill Forebay, *Merced* 22-25 May (ph. KVV) was unexpected, as was another in S.F. Bay at Redwood Shores, *San Mateo* 15-25 May (Pat Boor, RSTh). The species is more regular inside S.F. Bay at Brooks Island, *Contra Costa*, but 9 there 1 Apr (Logan Kahle) was a notable high count. An ad. Trumpeter Swan at Lake Earl 18-24 Mar (LuB et al., ph. ADB) provided the third record for *Del Norte*. Rarely reported in *Nevada*, a Blue-winged Teal was found at Lake-of-the-Pines W.T.P. 19-27 Apr (ph. RCD et al.). Single Eurasian Teal were reported from five counties, with one at Redwood Shores, *San Mateo* lingering until the late date of 12 May (RSTh). The male Tufted Duck was last reported at Lake Merritt in Oakland, *Alameda* 1 Apr (Judi Sierra), and another spent 15 Mar–2 Apr at Lake Hennessey, *Napa* (MBe); a male Tufted Duck × scaup hybrid showed up at Redwood Shores, *San Mateo* 13 Apr (RSTh, LBt). A count of 168 White-winged Scoters from six coastal locations 18 Mar (DLSu) made a remarkable total for *Santa Cruz*. None of the 9 Long-tailed Ducks, all found in five coastal counties, lingered past 30 Apr. The male Bufflehead × Common Goldeneye hybrid (*North American Birds* 67: 366) was last reported at Mountain View, *Santa Clara* 10 Mar (RFu). Reports of breeding Hooded Mergansers continue to increase, with young found in *Sutter*, *Placer*, *Plumas*, and *Sacramento* 21 Apr+. Also notable was a male on Phoenix Reservoir, *Tuolumne* 20 May (SUm); breeding has yet to be confirmed in the county. Seven Red-breasted Mergansers at Tulare W.T.P., *Tulare* 14 May (DaF, JLt) constituted a high count for an inland location. Wild Turkeys continued to expand their range and increase in numbers, the latest evidence being a female near Mount Davidson 30 Mar–7 Apr (Ron & Jacquie Proctor, ph. Tim Cashman), only the second for *S.F.*; the first was a leucistic bird of perhaps questionable provenance seen at Stow Lake in Nov 1972.

LOONS THROUGH GANNET

A Pacific Loon in American Valley, *Plumas* 10 May (BBg, CPD, SEd, ADE, Angela Dillingham) was unusual for being inland, the time of year, and its location (a small creek). A total of 175+ Horned Grebes on Lake Almanor, *Plumas* 20 Apr (CPD) more than doubled the previous inland high. The only Flesh-footed Shearwater reported was 65 km sw. of Año Nuevo Island, *San Mateo* 15 Apr (PEL). Six Brown Boobies made for an excellent showing. *Sonoma*'s first two records were of a dead imm. at Doran R.P. 7 Apr (Sue Pemberton) and an imm. at Bodega Harbor 22-26 May (JSL et al.). Others were at Point Pinos, *Monterey* 30 Mar (SBT, LTer, RyT), 16 km off Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* 4 May (AJ et al.; imm.), at the Point Reyes N.S. lighthouse, *Marin* 6-14 May (Mark Forney, Jeff Miller et al.), and off Fort Bragg, *Mendocino* 19 May (ph. REH et al.; subad.); the latter bird provided the state's northernmost spring record. The **Northern Gannet** present at F.I. since Apr 2012 continued through the period; it was often observed arranging nesting material and displaying to attract a mate.

BITTERNS THROUGH CRANES

The only Least Bittern reported was one heard at the Willits W.T.P. 27 May (KMS); this apparent first for *Mendocino* could not be relocated. Scattered coastal Cattle Egrets were found in *Alameda*, *Santa Cruz*, and *Monterey* during Apr, but the only later reports were from the Santa Rosa, *Sonoma* heronry. Coastal White-faced Ibis were widely reported from *Monterey* to *Del Norte* 17 Apr+; notable inland birds included one in *Nevada*, at Prosser Creek Reservoir 17 May (RCD, BOc, John Lace), and 2 in *Tuolumne* at Phoenix Lake 8 Apr (SUm). The *Sonoma* **Common Black-Hawk** was seen again 22 Apr (ph. Stan Moore), vocalizing and associating with a vocal male Red-shouldered Hawk. Spring records of Broad-winged Hawks are generally scarce, so up to 6 birds seen at various *S.F.* locations 3 May were unexpected; the only other report was from Skylawn Memorial Park, *San Mateo* 12 May (RSTh, LBt). Coastal Swainson's Hawks were reported in unprecedented numbers from *Monterey* to *Humboldt* 6 Mar+; most notable were birds in Coyote Valley, *Santa Clara* 7 Apr+, where an incredible 14 were tallied 20 May (RPh). Remarkably, a pair nested along nearby Coyote Creek (WGB et al.), the first confirmed breeding in *Santa Clara* since 1889. Regular surveys of Skaggs Island, *Sonoma* turned up surprising numbers of northbound Rough-legged Hawks, including a notable 8 birds 15 Apr and at least one lingering until the late date of 6 May (ph. George Eade). The *Monterey* Sandhill Crane present since 19 Dec (an imm.) remained until 13 Apr (DGl). Another coastal Sandhill (an ad.) spent 19 Apr–5 May at Table Bluff and Arcata Bottoms, *Humboldt* (KMS, ph. RbF, m.ob.). Five ads. at Bridgeport Reservoir, *Mono* 25 Apr+ included one sitting on a nest that ultimately failed to produce young (JLx, PJM, m.ob.).

SHOREBIRDS

For the third consecutive spring, Black Oystercatchers were found at Benicia, with 5 birds seen 14 Mar (RMu); like all previous

Solano records (the first being in 2011), these birds were seen from the First Street Pier. Solitary Sandpiper migration was well documented, with 44 birds found in 14 counties 2 Apr–12 May, including a notable tally of 12 at Redwood N.P., *Humboldt* 3 May (TKz); the highest count in our notebooks is of 15 to 17 in the Smith River bottoms, *Del Norte* 5 May 1982 (GSL). Marbled Godwits in unexpected inland locations included singles in Sierra Valley, *Plumas* 17 Apr (DPA) and at Sacramento N.W.R., *Glenn* 5 May (†COg) and up to 2 at Folsom Lake, *Placer* 22 Apr–8 May (RPz, ScD et al.). As is now expected, *Kings* provided notable inland records of typically coastal shorebirds, with Corcoran producing single Ruddy Turnstones 4-5 & 11 May (JLt), single Red Knots 21 Apr (MSy) and 15 May (JLt), and with 6 Sanderlings at Kettleman City 22 May (JSy). Other inland Sanderlings included 2 at Folsom Lake, *Placer* (ph. ScD, m.ob.), 3 at the Modesto W.T.P., *Stanislaus* 11 May (KPa), and 2 at the Fresno W.T.P., *Fresno* 12 May (Ellen Davies, Carl Peters). *San Joaquin*'s second spring Red Knot was at the Tracy W.T.P. 26 Apr (DGY). A Black Turnstone at Alviso 17 Apr (Brooke Miller, Mary Ann Allan) was *Santa Clara*'s third in spring, all occurring in the past five years. Single Semipalmated Sandpipers were found in *Del Norte* 23 Apr (ADB), *Kings* 28 Apr (Susan Steele), and *Fresno* 15 May (ph. SDS, Priscilla Summers). Five Baird's Sandpipers in three counties 23 Apr–22 May included *Mendocino*'s first in spring at Virgin Creek Beach 19-22 May (CWH, DWN, REH, ph. Lisa Walker, m.ob.). Pectoral Sandpipers were found at Lake Talowa, *Del Norte* 3 May (LuB) and H.R.S. 17 May (RJR). The season's only Stilt Sandpipers, up to 4 birds, spent 20-28 Apr at Corcoran, *Kings* (JLt). Five Wilson's Phalarope nests found in grassy edges of *Colusa* rice fields 14 May–18 Jun (ph. Monica Iglecia) provided first county breeding records. A Wilson's Phalarope at Moro Cojo Slough, *Monterey* 18 Mar (RF) was too early for a true migrant but had not been present at that location earlier in the year.

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS

Despite good pelagic coverage, the only Long-tailed Jaeger reported was off *Monterey* 8 May (PEL et al.), attesting to this species' rarity in spring. Parakeet Auklets seen on repositioning cruises included 2 off *Humboldt* 16 Apr (CAM, PEL), 27 off *Mendocino* and *Humboldt* 3 May (PEL et al.), and 29 off *Humboldt* and 6 off *Del Norte* 9 May (PEL et al.). A total of 300 Sabine's Gulls off *Monterey* 15 Apr (PEL et al.) was a good count for such an early date, and 2700 northbound Bonaparte's Gulls at Terrace Point, *Santa Cruz* the same day (AMR) produced one of our highest recent counts. Both Laughing Gulls and Franklin's Gulls were reported in good numbers. A first-cycle Laughing at Moss Landing, *Monterey* 6-14 Apr (ph. DR et al.) moved to several *Santa Cruz* locations 21 Apr–8 May (KKy et al.). Another first-cycle bird was at Ocean Beach, *S.F.* 11 Apr (†DMo), and 2 ads. were together at the Aptos Creek mouth, *Santa Cruz* 29 Apr (LTer). Forty-seven Franklin's Gulls in nine counties included *Sierra*'s first, at Sierra Valley 4 May (†KNN et al.), record-high counts for *Kings* (14 in Kettleman City 4-5 May [RH]) and *Stanislaus* (9 at the Modesto W.T.P. 12 May [HMR, Ralph Baker]), and a seasonal total of 18 in *Mono*. A concentration of 72 Mew Gulls at Sherman Island 10 Mar (GEw, LMcC) was impressive for *Sacramento*. This species is rare in the northern C.V., so singles near Yuba City 3 Mar (TEa, JLa, BED; second *Sutter* record), at Black Butte Reservoir 3-13 Mar (PBC, BED, SRs, DRs; third *Tehama* record), and Trinity Lake, *Trinity* 8 Mar (FrO et al.) were noteworthy. Three Thayer's Gulls near Yuba City, *Sutter* 2 Mar (BED, TEa, JLa) were equally remarkable. A second-cycle Kumlien's Iceland Gull was documented in Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* 7 Mar (ph., †Jeff Cislini). Two ad. or near-ad. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at Kettleman City, *Kings* 29 Mar, with one staying through 5 Apr (ph., †JSy). The total of 9 Glaucous Gulls was lower than in most recent years, though not unexpected after a lackluster winter showing. Eleven Black Terns in coastal areas included one off Fort Bragg 19 May (TEa et al.) that provided a fifth *Mendocino* record. A Common Tern at Alviso 27 Apr (MJM) was only the fourth for *Santa Clara* in spring. Two Black Skimmers at the Pajaro River mouth, *Monterey* 4 May (JGa, NLv) were the only migrants reported.

SA In recent years, repositioning cruises, mostly on large cruise ships departing s. California for Washington/British Columbia, have become popular for pelagic birding, which can often be done in comfort with a spotting scope. In addition to Parakeet Auklets, gadfly petrels are a particular attraction, and this season, considerable numbers of all three regular species were reported. Murphy's Petrels seen from repositioning cruises 45-85 km offshore included 3 off *Monterey* 15 Apr (Michael Harrison et al.), 19 off *Mendocino* and 10 off *Humboldt* 16 Apr (CAM, JCS, PEL et al.), 17 off *Mendocino* and *Humboldt* and one off *Del Norte* 3 May (PEL et al.), 60 from *Monterey* n. to *Mendocino* 9 May (Tim Janzen et al.), and one off *Humboldt* 31 May (PEL). These same cruises produced well-documented single Hawaiian Petrels off *Monterey* 15 Apr (Michael Harrison, †PEL), *Humboldt* 3 May (†PEL, †GMcC, ph. Ryan Shaw, ph. Brad Waggoner), and *San Mateo* 9 May (ph. Tom Crabtree), with single Galapagos/Hawaiian Petrels off *Humboldt* 16 Apr (JCS, †PEL) and 3 May (†PEL). Another Hawaiian Petrel was documented from a research vessel off *Monterey* 26 Apr (Dawn Breese, ph. Amanda Debich), and at least 9 more were reported without documentation. Although this species has proven to be a regular offshore visitor, documentation is still requested to help determine its distribution and whether Galapagos Petrel might occur in the Region. Cook's Petrels seen from repositioning cruises included 3 off *Monterey* 15 Apr (PEL et al.), 2 off *Humboldt* 16 Apr (Willie Hendrickson et al.), 4 off *Humboldt* 3 May (PEL et al.), and 11 off *Monterey* 9 May (Tim Janzen et al.); another was seen from F.I. 25 May (†R. J. Roush).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

Eurasian Collared-Dove populations continued to swell. For example, new high counts were set in *Santa Cruz*, with 40+ at Sunset S.B. 18 Mar (DLSu), and at F.I., with up to 10 during the period (Point Blue). The effects, if any, of these foreign invaders on native birds remain to be studied. However, results from quarterly bird surveys from 2004 to the present in American Valley, *Plumas*, where this species was first detected in 2008, appear to show an inverse relationship with Mourning Dove populations (BBg, Jim Battagin). An **Inca Dove** that visited feeders in Tulare, *Tulare* 16 May+ (ph. DaF, SDS) provided the first record for the Region. This species has been slowly spreading northwestward since it was first detected in California in the late 1940s. Although it is an uncommon year-round resident, Northern Saw-whet Owl was not a confirmed breeder in *Solano* until a nest was found in an old Pileated Woodpecker cavity at Wild Horse Ridge 14 Apr (MBe). The nest contained noisy nestlings by 25 May and remained active through the period. California's second **Eastern Whip-poor-will**, discovered by area residents at Valencia Creek Ranch, *Santa Cruz* 17 May (Alan Wirtanen, Patti & Graham Bubb), remained through the end of the period (v.r., m.ob.).

Five Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers included 2 winter holdovers in *Santa Clara* and one in *Monterey*, and 2 newcomers, one at Palo Alto, *Santa Clara* 10 Mar (SEM) and one at Skyline O.S.P., *San Mateo* 28 Mar (MDeF). *Yolo*'s first Red-naped Sapsucker, at Putah Creek Canyon, continued from winter through 11 Mar (MP). *Del Norte*'s Crested Caracara continued near Fort Dick 15-19 Mar (LuB, ADB). Two of last winter's Eastern Phoebes lingered just into the spring period, one at Boggs Slough, *Kings* through 4 Mar (MSy) and one at Los Capitancillos percolation ponds, *Santa Clara* through 5 Mar (JPa, AV). New for spring was one at Bayside, *Humboldt* 20 May (JCP). Our only Vermilion Flycatcher was the wintering female at Point Pinos, *Monterey*, which hung around until 27 Mar (BTM). Tropical Kingbirds were represented only by birds in *San Francisco*. They included single winter leftovers at India Basin through 21 Mar (Logan Battling, m.ob.) and at Lake Merced through 21 Apr (m.ob.), plus a spring-only bird at Golden Gate Park 6 Apr (Lee-Hong Chang). A Cassin's Kingbird at Ferndale Bottoms 27 Apr–2 May (ph. Brad Elvert, TKz, Meghan Still, m.ob.) was just the fourth for *Humboldt*. A pair carrying nesting material at Fort Ord N.M., *Monterey* 5-27 Apr (MiS, DR, RC, D&I Lebeaune) was unusually close to the coast for breeding at this latitude. Establishing the first breeding record for *Merced*, two pairs nested at Basalt Campground, with birds observed 28 Apr+ (MMR, PJM, DMo et al.).

Our only Bell's Vireo, apparently a Least, sang among sandbar willows at the Bufferlands, *Sacramento* 29-30 Apr (ph., vt. CCo, et al.). A Plumbeous Vireo in Davis 9 May (SCH, Claire Gallagher) was just the fourth for *Yolo*. In the C.V., Purple Martins are rarely observed s. of *Sacramento*, so one over Caswell Memorial S.P., *San Joaquin* and *Stanislaus* 23 Mar (DGY, Farley Cross) was noteworthy. A Chestnut-backed Chickadee of the subspecies *barlowi*, probably one of the same birds observed in Jan, was on the C.V. floor at Oak Grove R.P., *San Joaquin* 31 Mar+ (Michele Townsley, JLx, ph. RbF, DGY). One in Del Puerto Canyon 13 May (KPa), 18 May (MDo et al.), and 1 Jun (Jackie Weller) was the first for *Stanislaus*. The species is also scarce in *Colusa*, so a few at Payne Ranch in the Cache Creek N.A. 20 Apr (Ian Morrison) provided a rare record. Townsend's Solitaires away from areas of residency included 2 at Mount Tamalpais, *Marin* 2-9 Mar (Ken Schneider, DS, m.ob.) and singles at American River Parkway, *Sacramento* 24 Mar (Kari Bauer) and at Point Reyes N.S., *Marin* 23 Apr (Everett Clark) and 6 May (Mark Forney). A pale Swainson's Thrush at Lodi Lake, *San Joaquin* 28 May (†DGY) was thought to be of the olive-backed subspecies *almae* (also known as *swainsoni*), which, based on specimen records, may be a scarce spring transient in parts of California but is unknown from the C.V.

THRASHERS THROUGH FINCHES

A total of 2 out-of-range Sage Thrashers, one along Spring Branch Rd., *Tehama* 2 Mar (ph. Richard & Robin Wolcott) and the other at Clam Beach, *Humboldt* 6 May (Mark Colwell, ph. RbF), is about average but pales compared to last spring's 14. Notable Phainopepla observations included a bird near Willits, *Mendocino* 9 May (KBu) which, combined with past May/Jun records nearby, may suggest local breeding, and another at Paradise, *Mono* 30 May (DHo), where the species is rare. The only longspur reported was a flyover, calling Chestnut-collared at C.R.P. 23 Mar (JTr).

This was a generally lackluster warbler season with low diversity and most of the rarest species being holdovers from winter. For example, our only Worm-eating Warbler, in Shay Park, *Humboldt*, was first found in Jan and seen for the last time 22 Apr (Kurt Ongman). At least 3 of the 7 Northern Waterthrushes continued from winter. The Northern Waterthrush at Chester 30 May–17 Jun (RDB, ph. DPA, m.ob.) was *Plumas*'s second. All 3 Black-and-white Warblers were in *Santa Cruz* and all continued from winter, with one at Pinto Lake staying through 16 Mar (Randy Wardle), one along Soquel Creek last seen 18 Mar (DLSu), and the third at Bethany Curve Park remaining until 24 Mar (SGe). Tennessee Warblers were in Monterey, *Monterey* 17 Mar (†DR, RC, BTM) and on F.I. 25-26 Apr (Point Blue). On 24 May, Cottonwood Canyon supported a female Hooded Warbler (ph. PJM, ADeM) and an American Redstart (PJM, ADeM). The only other American Redstart was at the Big Sur River mouth, *Monterey* 28 May (ph. RF). A wintering Cape May Warbler stayed along San Francisquito Creek, *San Mateo* and *Santa Clara* until 23 Mar (m.ob.). Another Cape May in Golden Gate Park 21 Mar (ph. David Freund) was likely *S.F.*'s first in spring. Just 2 Northern Parulas (we average nearly 8 in spring) were reported, one at Liberty Farms, *Kings* 22 May (ph. JLt) and the other in Cottonwood Canyon, *Mono* 24 May (PJM, ADeM). A Black-throated Blue Warbler continuing from winter along Pescadero Rd., *San Mateo* was heard singing 14 Apr and last seen 20 Apr (GrH). The one warbler found in good numbers was Palm Warbler, with 21 birds, three times the Regional spring average. As with many of our Yellow-throated Warblers, the one at Moonglow Dairy, *Monterey* 9-10 May (ph. Bandt Bates, Barry McLaughin, JPo) was a singing male. A second Yellow-throated Warbler near Mammoth Lakes, *Mono* 30 Mar–3 Apr (Ken Wells, ph. Karen Murphy, m.ob.) was remarkable both for the high altitude (2400 m) and the early date. This bird provided the Region with its second Mar record for the species. Our prior Mar record was of a bird continuing from winter in *San Mateo* last year. The only other Mar records in the state of which we are aware were also of wintering birds lingering into early spring in *Orange*, *Inyo*, and *San Diego*.

Wintering Clay-colored Sparrows seldom continue into spring, and spring migrants are rare, so 9 Clay-coloreds this season provided a new high (we average less than 3). Birds seen as late as 14 May in *San Mateo* and *Santa Cruz* provided unusually late records for those counties. The Field Sparrow in *S.F.* continued through 28 Mar (KMcK). Last spring's record invasion of Black-chinned and Black-throated Sparrows showed the typical pattern of both species "irrupting" into the Region in tandem. However, this year defied that pattern, with Black-chinneds present in good numbers in some Coast Range sites in *Lake*, *Colusa*, and *Santa Clara*, whereas our only Black-throated Sparrows were one near Foresthill, *Placer* 5 May (RPz) and 2 along Cherry Lake Rd., *Tuolumne* 19 May (Bill Zachman). There were 2 Lark Buntings along County Rd. 38, *Yolo* 6-9 May (AEn, KPa). This was a very good spring for Grasshopper Sparrows, with *Amador*'s third w. of Ione 25 Mar (JSL) and *Nevada*'s first near Englebright Dam 23 May+ (KNN, m.ob.). In addition, reports from *Mendocino*, *San Joaquin*, *Santa Cruz*, and *Sonoma* all noted either unusual numbers or birds reoccupying historical breeding locales. Two Nelson's Sparrows at Moonglow Dairy, *Monterey* continued until 28 Mar (DR, m.ob.). A total of 9 Swamp Sparrows was triple the spring average. Of our 5 Harris's Sparrows, only one at Loyalton, *Sierra* 14 Apr (CPD, Angela Dillingham) was not confirmed to be a winter holdover. A Golden-crowned Sparrow at Lee Vining 16 May (Nancy Devon) provided a very rare spring record for *Mono*.

Nineteen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and 14 Indigo Buntings were both slightly above our long-term averages. An overwintering Orchard Oriole at Monterey, *Monterey* stayed until 19 Mar (†BTM, †DR). Eight Baltimore Orioles set a new high for the Region. The oriole of the season was certainly the male Scott's Oriole that turned up singing in a yard near Don Pedro Lake, *Tuolumne* 12 May (†JTu, Sandi Turner). Among the boreal seed-eating birds that irrupted into the Region from fall through winter, Red Crossbills and Evening Grosbeaks remained into spring, with reports of high numbers of one or both in a dozen different counties.

Addendum: To the fall 2012 report, add *Del Norte*'s first Gray Catbird e. of Crescent City 29 Sep–1 Oct (ph. DAB, m.ob.).

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El Centro
Imperial Dam
Pt. Loma
Tijuana R. Valley

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Relatively warm and very dry conditions continued through most of the Region this spring, with low water levels and parched landscapes the norm. This dryness, however, did not appear to result in any extraordinary concentrations of migrants at relatively wet desert oases. The season's highlight was California's first unambiguously documented Great Black-backed Gull, a bird well photographed near the north end of the Salton Sea in early May. Other highlights included a Hudsonian Godwit and unprecedented numbers of Neotropic Cormorants at the Salton Sea, a Sandwich Tern in coastal San Diego County, two Grace's Warblers in the desert lowlands, and a Pyrrhuloxia in Orange County.

Spring first arrival dates, as provided by county coordinators, included the following: Olive-sided Flycatcher 17 Apr (*San Diego*); Western Wood-Pewee 9 Apr (*San Luis Obispo*, *San Diego*); Willow Flycatcher (*brewsteri*) 14 May (*San Luis Obispo*), 17 May (*San Diego*), 18 May (*Imperial*); Hammond's Flycatcher 28 Mar (*Kern*), 2 Apr (*San Diego*); Dusky Flycatcher 20 Apr (*San Diego*); Pacific-slope Flycatcher 14 Mar (*San Diego*); Ash-throated Flycatcher 28 Mar (*San Diego*, *Kern*), 31 Mar (*Santa Barbara*); Western Kingbird 14 Mar (*San Diego*, *Riverside*); Bell's Vireo 17 Mar (*San Diego*), 4 Apr (w. *San Bernardino*); Gray Vireo 29 Mar (*San Diego*); Cassin's Vireo 28 Mar (*Imperial*), 7 Apr (*San Diego*); Warbling Vireo 6 Mar (*San Luis Obispo*), 16 Mar (*San Diego*); Purple Martin 25 Mar (*San Luis Obispo*); Bank Swallow 12 Apr (*San Luis Obispo*); Swainson's Thrush 15 Apr (*San Diego*); Lucy's Warbler 16 Mar (*San Diego*); Nashville Warbler 30 Mar (*San Diego*); MacGillivray's Warbler 21 Mar (*San Luis Obispo*); Yellow Warbler 26 Mar (*Santa Barbara*), 5 Apr (*San Luis Obispo*); Black-throated Gray Warbler 28 Mar (*San Diego*); Townsend's Warbler 10 Apr (*Imperial*); Hermit Warbler 10 Apr (*San Diego*); Wilson's Warbler 12 Mar (*San Luis Obispo*), 16 Mar (*San Diego*); Yellow-breasted Chat 9 Apr (*San Diego*); Black-chinned Sparrow 14 Mar (*San Diego*), 15 Mar (*Riverside*); Western Tanager 10 Apr (*San Diego*); Black-headed Grosbeak 26 Mar (*San Diego*), 27 Mar (*San Luis Obispo*); Blue Grosbeak 9 Apr (*San Diego*); Lazuli Bunting 9 Apr (*San Diego*); Hooded Oriole 13 Mar (*San Luis Obispo*); Bullock's Oriole 14 Mar (*San Diego*); Scott's Oriole 30 Mar (*San Diego*).

Abbreviations: B.S. (Butterbredt Spring at the s. end of the Sierra Nevada above Cantil, e. *Kern*); C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, ne. *Kern*); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park, e. *Kern*); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, *Riverside*); P.P. (Piute Ponds, Edwards A.F.B., *Los Angeles*); S.E.S.S. (s. end of the Salton Sea, *Imperial*); S.J.W.A. (San Jacinto Wildlife Area near Lakeview, *Riverside*); V.C.G.P. (Ventura County Game Preserve near Point Mugu N.A.S., *Ventura*). Museum collections abbreviated in the text are: SDNHM (San Diego Natural History Museum). Because most rarities in s. California are seen by multiple observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and/or identifying the bird are included. Documentation for species on the California B.R.C. (C.B.R.C.) review list (see <www.californiabirds.org>) is forwarded to the C.B.R.C. and archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, Camarillo.

WATERFOWL THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS

Along with multiple Brant at the Salton Sink during Mar–May, 25 on Lake Sutherland, *San Diego* 6 Apr (JSt), 7 on Lake Henshaw, *San Diego* 27 May (NS), and 2 at S.J.W.A. 16 Apr (CMcG) were along the presumed route taken by this goose migrating northward from wintering grounds in the Gulf of California to the Pacific Coast; 3 at C.L. 15 Apr (SLS) were e. of the Sierra Nevada, where very rare. A Harlequin Duck at Cayucos, *San Luis Obispo* 15 May (JI) was the only one reported. The only scoters inland were a Surf Scoter found dead at a solar project near Desert Center, *Riverside* 15 Apr (*fide* CC) and single birds on Fig Lagoon near Seeley, *Imperial* 23 & 28 Mar (GMcC). The latest of 4 wintering Black Scoters on the coast was one at Shell Beach, *San Luis Obispo* 6 May (PK). A Long-tailed Duck near Imperial Beach, *San Diego* 21 Mar–20 Apr (MSa) and another at Morro Bay, *San Luis Obispo* 2 Mar–26 Apr (TME) were the latest staying of 8 known wintering on the coast.

A Red-throated Loon, rare to casual well inland, was on Fig Lagoon 13 Apr (TME). Up to 7 Pacific Loons, an impressive number for an inland location, were on the *San Bernardino* side of Lake Havasu 5-19 Apr (DVanP), and single birds elsewhere inland were on Owens Lake, *Inyo* 18 May (SLS), at C.L. 17 May (SLS), at Jacumba, *San Diego* 9 Apr–7 May (EGK), in flight over Butterfield Ranch in Anza Borrego Desert S.P., *San Diego* 24 May (JTS), and at S.E.S.S. (Obsidian Butte) 24 May–14 Jun (GMcC). A flock of 13 Common Loons flying northward at N.E.S.S. 6 Apr (HBK) was a large number for the Salton Sink.

A Laysan Albatross over the Rodriguez Seamount off *Santa Barbara* 27 Apr (DP) and 4 seen from a Holland-America repositioning cruise 73-87 km off *San Luis Obispo* 8 May (PEL) were over waters where no doubt regular. Ten Murphy's Petrels were 80 km w. of San Miguel Island 15 Apr (PEL) at the same time larger numbers were being seen over deep waters to the north. A Hawaiian/Galapagos Petrel was over the Outer Arguello Canyon w.-nw. of San Miguel Island 15 Apr (PEL); more observations from repositioning cruises will no doubt show Hawaiian Petrels regularly forage over deep waters this close to the California coast. The only Cook's Petrel reported was one 80 km w.-sw. of Point Conception, *Santa Barbara* 15 Apr (PG). Reports of Manx Shearwaters included single birds 6 km off Torrey Pines State Preserve, *San Diego* 2 Mar (CAM) and 11 km off nearby La Jolla 2 Mar (BJS). A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, rare over s. California waters, was in the w. Santa Barbara Channel 27 Apr (DP).

Unusual was the recovery of sick and recently dead Red-billed Tropicbirds on a beach in Coronado, *San Diego* 17 Mar (MM; *SDNHM) and 3 May (DP; *SDNHM). Brown Boobies are becoming commoner along the coast, as indicated by 7 seen off *San Diego* from 12 Mar through 13 May, along with one at

One of many Neotropic Cormorants known to be present in the southeastern part of Southern California was this one photographed along the south shore of the Salton Sea, Imperial County on 16 March 2013. *Photograph by Curtis A. Marantz*

This American Golden-Plover at the Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge in Chula Vista on 21 May 2013 was one of four found in Southern California this spring. *Photograph by Matt Sadowski*

San Clemente Island 30 Apr (JTS), another off Dana Point, *Orange* 30 May (BeA), and a third on Santa Barbara Island 6 May (JH). Neotropic Cormorants are becoming more numerous and widespread in the se. part of this Region, as indicated by at least 2 along the Colorado River at Blythe, *Riverside* 1 Mar–21 Apr (DVanP, TSc); one at Fig Lagoon 26 Apr–31 May+ (GMcC), plus 4 near Brawley 25 May (BMi) in the Imperial Valley, *Imperial*; about 15 at S.E.S.S. 9 Feb through 31 May and later (GMcC); and single birds at N.E.S.S. 14 Mar (CMcG) and 5-16 May (MAC, CAM), along with different individuals in the *Riverside* portion of the Prado Basin 30 May and 31 May–7 Jun (JEP), the latter two records being the first w. of the coastal mountains. A frigatebird, presumably a Magnificent, over Malibu, *Los Angeles* 2 Apr (KD) appeared at an odd time of the year.

HERONS THROUGH PUFFINS

A Least Bittern at Zzyzx, *San Bernardino* 19 May (JBo) was at an unexpected location. The only Reddish Egrets reported were at least 4 around San Diego Bay, *San Diego* and 5 in coastal *Orange*, where now expected in small numbers. Two pairs of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen attending nests at Imperial Beach at the end of May (GMcC).

The only Harris's Hawks known in the Region at the end of May were a pair at Jacumba (EGK). Two Broad-winged Hawks over the Tijuana River valley, *San Diego* 30 Apr (GN) were unexpected, as very few have been recorded in the Region in spring. Large flocks of migrant Swainson's Hawks included 100 at San Bernardino 2 Apr (KS), 200+ near Lakeview, *Riverside* 7 Mar (MDW), and 255 near Needles, *San Bernardino* 25 Apr (DVanP, LH). Presumed migrant Zone-tailed Hawks were at Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve, *Riverside* 2 Mar (JSz), De Luz, *San Diego* 4 Mar (BMu), and Palm Desert, *Riverside* 3 May (PK), but one at Lake Arrowhead in the San Bernardino Mountains 26 Mar (BS) was in suitable breeding habitat, while up to 2 at Mid-Hills Camp Ground in the Mojave National Preserve, *San Bernardino* 18 Apr–28 May (DWa, JCS) were in an area where nesting is known; another at Black Rock Campground in Joshua Tree N.P., *San Bernardino* 28 Apr (BrA) is best considered wandering. A Rough-legged Hawk moving northward over Borrego Springs, *San Diego* 23 Mar (WH) and another at the Carrizo Plain, *San Luis Obispo* 12 Apr (DLK) were the latest of those wintering in the Region.

A Clapper Rail found dead at a solar project near Desert Center 8 May (*fide* CC) was the fourth to be found in this general area of desert. The total of 4 American Golden-Plovers, all singles, at Newport Beach, *Orange* 27-29 Apr (CMcG), Huntington Beach, *Orange* 29 Apr (CM), Chula Vista, *San Diego* 21 May (RTP), and P.P. 20 Apr (LS), was higher than expected at this time of the year. A wintering Pacific Golden-Plover remained at Del Mar, *San Diego* through 3 Apr (PEL), and lone migrants were near Imperial Beach 9 May (MSa) and inland at Kern N.W.R., *Kern* 3 May (AMS). A Wilson's Plover at Dockweiler Beach near El Segundo 26 Mar (WL) was the first known in *Los Angeles*, and another was near Imperial Beach 29 Mar (MSa). An American Oystercatcher was near Morse Point on Santa Cruz Island 7 Apr–12 Jun (ST).

Eleven Solitary Sandpipers on the coast, along with at least 20 in the e. half of the Region 11 Apr–May, included an impressive count of 6 at S.J.W.A. 18 Apr (AEM, CMcG). A Wandering Tattler, casual inland, was at S.E.S.S. 5 May (JH). Although Whimbrels are abundant spring transients at the Salton Sink, they are highly local in the rest of the interior, so reports from four locations in *San Bernardino* in Apr, including 125 at Chino 25 Apr (CAM), were of note. A Hudsonian Godwit near Ramer Lake, *Imperial* 24-26 May (GMcC) provides only the third record for the Salton Sink. A Ruddy Turnstone near California City, *Kern* 15 Apr (AMS) was the only one reported away from the Salton Sea. Two Black Turnstones, unexpected inland, were at S.E.S.S. 11 May (TRL). Three Surfbirds, exceptional inland, were at Salt Creek on the Salton Sea, *Riverside* 3 Apr (CMcG), while 300 northbound migrants on a beach near Oso Flaco Lake, *San Luis Obispo* 20 Apr (RHZ) was an impressive flock. A Red Knot at C.L. 16-17 May (SLS) was the only one away from the Salton Sea, and 150 at Salt Creek 1 May (MAC) was the largest flock at the Salton Sea this spring. Two Sanderlings at Owens Lake 21 May (DJH), along with one at C.L. 15 May (SLS) and 5 at Bakersfield 3 May (KH-L), were inland and away from the Salton Sea. The only Semipalmated Sandpipers were single birds inland at C.L. 2-8 May (SLS) and 3 Jun (SLS), one at P.P. 21 Apr (MSc), and up to 2 on the coast at Goleta 2-4 May (NAL). A Baird's Sandpiper, unexpected in spring, was near Lancaster, *Los Angeles* 4 May (MSc), and another was at S.E.S.S. 11 May (GMcC). Single Pectoral Sandpipers, also rare in spring, were at C.L. 15-16 Apr (DVB) and at P.P. 13 & 20 Apr (LS). Single Stilt Sandpipers at V.C.G.P. 21 Apr (LS), C.L. 29 Apr–8 May (SLS), and P.P. 7-8 May (LS) made the only reports away from S.E.S.S., and an estimated 600 at S.E.S.S. 26 Apr (GMcC) indicates how numerous this species can be on the Salton Sea. A Ruff at Orange 5 May (DRW) provides the first record of a spring migrant in *Orange*. A Red Phalarope at Baker, *San Bernardino* 8 May (BMu) was far inland.

The Salton Sink's third Hudsonian Godwit was this female photographed on the first day of its stay near Ramer Lake, Imperial County, California 24-26 May 2013. ***Photograph by Curtis A. Marantz***

The only Sabine's Gull reported inland was one near Lancaster 6 May (DB). A Laughing Gull at the San Diego River mouth, *San Diego* 30 Mar–28 Apr (GN) was on the coast, where rare. An early Franklin's Gull at Oceanside, *San Diego* 28 Mar (BMu) was followed by 8 more elsewhere along the coast 13 Apr–30 May; in the e. half of the Region, where far more numerous, early migrants at C.L. 18 Mar (SLS) and N.E.S.S. 22 Mar (CMcG) were followed by over 120 by the end of May, including counts of 27 at Owens Lake 23 Apr (T&JH) and 23 at C.L. 18 Apr (SLS). A Heermann's Gull at Lake Perris, *Riverside* 5 Apr (CMcG) was well inland and away from the Salton Sea. A Mew Gull at Bishop, *Inyo* 25-28 Mar (CPD) was far inland and e. of the Sierra Nevada. Up to 20 Western Gulls at N.E.S.S. through the period illustrates how numerous this gull has become on the Salton Sea. Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found on the Salton Sea, with an ad. at Salt Creek 6 Apr (HBK, CAM) and a first-cycle bird 28 Apr–8 May at the e. end of Avenue 84 (CMcG, EE). An ad. **Great Black-backed Gull** well photographed at the e. end of Avenue 84 near the N.E.S.S. 1 & 5 May (CMcG) provides the first record for California. Three Glaucous Gulls remained in the Region from the winter, with one at Ormond Beach, *Ventura* 5-6 Mar (JB), another Playa del Rey/Dockweiler Beach 18 Mar–7 Apr (JC, JFG), and the third inland at Salt Creek on the Salton Sea 20 Apr (CMcG).

A Least Tern at Zzyzx 28-29 May (JCS) was far inland and away from the Salton Sea. A Gull-billed Tern at Oceano 7 May (MC) was the first in *San Luis Obispo*. An apparent **Sandwich Tern** was at Camp Del Mar, *San Diego* 27 Mar (JMcM), and what may have been the same bird was at the San Diego River mouth 31 Mar (GN). An Elegant Tern at N.E.S.S. 7 May (GMcC) was the only one noted inland. Black Terns are now quite rare along the coast, so one on San Diego Bay 28 May (MSa) and 5 in the Santa Barbara Channel 27 Apr (DP) were of note. A Horned Puffin 22 km s. of Santa Rosa Island and 4 Tufted Puffins in that same general area 2 May (PEL) were unexpected.

PIGEONS THROUGH THRASHERS

A Band-tailed Pigeon at La Jolla 28 May (EP) was on the s. coast, where unexpected. Seven White-winged Doves on the coast 19 Apr–11 May was about average. The earliest Common Nighthawks this spring were 5 at Bishop 30 May (C&RH). A Black-chinned Hummingbird near El Centro, *Imperial* 6 Mar (KZK) provides the earliest date for a spring migrant in California. An ad. male Rufous Hummingbird near El Centro 9 Feb (KZK) was the earliest ever at the Salton Sink. Northbound migrant Calliope Hummingbirds, reported from 14 Apr through 20 May, appeared more numerous than normal, as suggested by counts of 7 at Point Loma, *San Diego* 1 May (PEL, SBM) and 4 near El Centro 30 Apr (KZK), along with 3-4 in the Santa Ana Mountains, *Orange* 16-26 Apr (KM, TF-H) and 5 in the area of Santa Barbara 23 Apr–8 May (HPR, JW, EBC). A Crested Caracara was near Mid-Hills Campground in the Mohave National Preserve, *San Bernardino* 18 May (ES).

Quite early for the n. deserts was a Hammond's Flycatcher at Ridgecrest, *Kern* 28 Mar (SLS). Apparent spring migrant Eastern Phoebes were at Jacumba, *San Diego* 29 Mar (EGK) and at G.H.P. 12 Apr (RK). An Ash-throated Flycatcher near Cantil 28 Mar (K&BK) was possibly the earliest ever in spring in *Kern*. Two Brown-crested Flycatchers were at Palm Springs, *Riverside* 30 May (BMa); this species is now very rare in the Coachella Valley. An Eastern Kingbird well described from near Cayucos, *San Luis Obispo* 4 May (GPS) was perhaps the earliest ever recorded in California in spring. The only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher reported was at Madrona Marsh at Torrance, *Los Angeles* 30 May (JSm, TD). Somewhat extralimital breeding of Vermilion Flycatchers was documented at Santa Ynez, *Santa Barbara*, with birds through the period and fledglings being fed 16 Jun (RFC), and at Irvine, *Orange* 11 May (2 ads. with a fledgling; KL, TAB).

A Plumbeous Vireo near Stovepipe Wells, Death Valley N.P. 20 Apr (C&RH) established the earliest spring record for *Inyo*, and one at G.H.P. the same day (KH-L) might also have been a migrant. A Yellow-throated Vireo, casual in spring, was at California City, *Kern* 1 Jun (AEK). The only Red-eyed Vireos reported were an injured bird at Yorba Linda, *Orange* 21 May that recovered and was released (VS) and one at Bishop, *Inyo* 1 Jun (C&RH). American Crows continue to increase in *Inyo*; 21 at Deep Springs College 11 May (SLS) was the highest count ever for that well-worked site, and 4 at Aspendell 12 May (SLS) set a new high-elevation record at 2500 m. A Cliff Swallow showing the characters of *melanogaster* (=*swainsonii*) was at S.E.S.S. 5 Apr (GMcC); this subspecies, breeding from in se. Arizona and nw. Mexico, has not been documented by specimen in California.

At least 2 Pygmy Nuthatches were in the Santa Ana Mountains of *Orange*, where casual, 21 Apr–12 May (TAB). Photographs and voice recordings of a possible Winter Wren in the Upper Trabuco Canyon trailhead, Santa Ana Mountains 25 Apr (TF-H), are suggestive of this species but perhaps inconclusive. A pair of California Gnatcatchers in coastal prairie habitat in the El Segundo dunes adjacent to Los Angeles International Airport, *Los Angeles* 15 Mar+ (TD) was documented as breeding, extending the known breeding range on the immediate coast northward from the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

In the absence of any strong winter incursion, the presence of 2 Mountain Bluebirds on San Clemente Island 2 Mar (SKR) and 2 more there 12 Apr (KGR) was surprising. Two Varied Thrushes at Cerro Alto, *San Luis Obispo* 3 May were late (KH). Gray Catbirds, casual migrants, were at Ridgecrest 1 Jun (TL) and at G.H.P. 2-4 Jun (DVanP). Equally rare were Brown Thrashers at Desert Center, *Riverside* 6-7 Apr (RK), near Encinitas, *San Diego* 20-30 Apr (BL, KA), and near Cantil, *Kern* 21 May (K&BK). *Inyo*'s long-staying Curve-billed Thrasher at Starlite, w. of Bishop, continued through the period (T&JH).

LONGSPURS THROUGH FINCHES

A Lapland Longspur at Borrego Springs, *San Diego* 23 Apr (CD, RTh) was apparently a spring migrant—but from where? Twelve Ovenbirds were on the n. deserts 5 May–8 Jun. Six Northern Waterthrushes on the n. deserts 25 Apr–2 Jun were augmented by singles on San Clemente Island 25 Apr (KGR) and at Manhattan Beach, *Los Angeles* 27 Apr (BB). Four Black-and-white Warblers were found along the coast 31 Mar–17 May, with at least 9 on the n. deserts 3 May–2 Jun. Five coastal Tennessee Warblers, from *Los Angeles* to *San Diego*, were found 2-12 May, with 5 on the n. deserts 19 May–2 Jun. Four Hooded Warblers were all in the interior: singles at Agua Caliente, *San Diego* 17 Apr (PM), G.H.P. 20-22 May (K&BK), Ridgecrest 31 May (SLS), and California City 1 Jun (DG). The 5 American Redstarts in coastal areas 18 Apr–6 Jun included 4 on San Clemente Island the first week of Jun, and 5 were on the *Kern* deserts 19 May–1 Jun, with another at Morongo Valley 29 May (SR); earlier birds at Monterey Park, *Los Angeles* 18 Apr (JStr) and near Blythe 16 Apr (MT) might have wintered locally. Northern Parulas at the San Diego Zoo 26 Mar (TRS) and w. of Niland at S.E.S.S. 31 Mar (DWi) were likely wintering locally; spring vagrants were scarce this year, with 3 in coastal regions 5 May–3 Jun, one at Vallecito, *San Diego* 11 May (BLS), and 3 on the *Kern* deserts 23-30 May. A Magnolia Warbler at San Diego 27 Apr (PEL) was exceptionally early for a spring vagrant and might have wintered locally; others were at B.S. 30 May (RTe) and G.H.P. 2-8 Jun (DVanP). Bay-breasted Warblers, nearly annual in late spring, were at California City 1 Jun (AH, VH) and on San Clemente Island 5 Jun (JTS, NJD). The only Chestnut-sided Warbler was on San Clemente Island 13 Jun (JTS). Far rarer in spring than in fall were Blackpoll Warblers at Huntington Beach, *Orange* 15 May (TF-H) and Scotty's Castle, Death Valley N.P. 31 May (DVanP, LBH), and Black-throated Blue Warblers at G.H.P. 31 May (KHL) and Ridgecrest 5 Jun (SLS). Palm Warblers are showing all the trappings of a regular spring migration through our Region, with a significant movement earlier in spring that that shown by our other "eastern vagrant" warblers. Thirteen birds not known to have wintered locally were along the coast 29 Mar–4 May; 5 more were on the deserts 22 Apr–18 May, with the only later bird being at G.H.P. 1-2 Jun (DG). A Pine Warbler at Chula Vista, *San Diego* 20-22 Mar (MSa) was undoubtedly wintering locally. Very late coastal Yellow-rumped Warblers included a Myrtle on San Clemente Island 2 Jun (JTS), an Audubon's there 5 Jun (JTS), and an Audubon's at Hansen Dam, *Los Angeles* 10 Jun (KLG). **Grace's Warblers**, pre-

This Grace's Warbler at Ridgecrest, Kern County on 5 May 2013 was one of two found with expected migrant passerines at desert locations in Southern California. *Photograph by Kelli Heindel-Levinson.*

viously unrecorded as spring vagrants in the Region, were photographed at Apollo Park at Lancaster, *Los Angeles* 24 Apr (JSF, DMa) and at Ridgecrest 5 May (RAB; a first for *Kern*). A Painted Redstart was at B.S. 17-18 May (RAB).

Nine Clay-colored Sparrows were found in coastal regions 12 Apr–13 May, with another 5 on the n. deserts 5-31 May. A Black-chinned Sparrow at Point Loma 14 Mar (GN) was early for a migrant and on the coast, where casual in occurrence. Black-throated Sparrows were present near Monte Cristo Campground on the coastal slope of the San Gabriel Mountains, *Los Angeles* through the period, with a family group present 12 Jun (JSF); the breeding of this desert species here is clearly a response to habitat changes since the massive Station Fire burn in 2009; unusual was a migrant in Exposition Park near downtown Los Angeles 14 May (KLG). Lark Buntings were in the far s. deserts at Anza-Borrego S.P. 23 Mar (LK), Plaster City, *Imperial* IMP 6 Apr (MRG), and Jacumba 24 Apr (TO), and offshore at Santa Cruz Island 19 May (ST). A Red Fox Sparrow in Modjeska Canyon, *Orange* 20 Mar (RW) was likely present all winter. Swamp Sparrows at Goleta, *Santa Barbara* 29 Mar (HPR) and Irvine 17 Apr (TF-H) might have wintered nearby, but sure migrants were at P.P. 27 Apr (KLG), California City 7 May (DG), B.S. 5-8 May (DMa), and G.H.P. 1 Jun (DG). A migrant Song Sparrow of undetermined subspecies was on San Clemente Island 15 Mar (KGR, NJD). A Harris's Sparrow at Santa Margarita, *San Luis Obispo* 6 Mar–5 Apr (PAG) had probably wintered nearby. Late migrant White-throated Sparrows were at Ridgecrest 17-18 May (DMa) and Horse Thief Spring in the Kingston Mountains, *San Bernardino* 17 May (KC). A White-crowned Sparrow × Golden-crowned Sparrow hybrid was documented at Atascadero, *San Luis Obispo* 16-17 Apr (RHZ). Evidence accrues annually of the lowland breeding range expansion of Dark-eyed Juncos, exemplified this year by birds nest-building in the Tijuana River Valley 14 Apr (MSa) and a recently fledged juv. at San Carlos, *San Diego* 15 May (JM).

A scattering of Summer Tanagers in coastal areas included birds making it out to Santa Rosa Island 3 May (DR) and San Clemente Island 3 (TRL) & 10 Jun (KGR). The only Scarlet Tanager was a male at Huntington Beach 24 May (TF-H). A **Pyrrhuloxia** photographed at Westminster 1-7 May (R&MC) was the second to be found in *Orange*. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, scarce but regular in spring, numbered 15 in coastal regions 11 May–4 Jun and 16 in the interior 8 May–7 Jun. Indigo Buntings were numerous this spring, with at least 21 on the coastal slope and islands after 24 Apr (with some remaining into Jun in potential breeding habitat in the San Gabriel Mountains, *Los Angeles*) and 12 on the n. deserts 8 May–1 Jun.

A very early Bobolink at Goleta 14 May (DMC) was followed by one near Los Olivos, *Santa Barbara* 26 May (LL) and another on San Clemente Island 2-4 Jun (JTS). A Tricolored Blackbird on San Clemente Island 19 May–4 Jun (TRL) was just the fourth to be found on the island. Baltimore Orioles at Goleta 11 (AP, KP) & 13 Apr (MAH) and one at Arcadia, *Los Angeles* 16 Mar–26 Apr (MSc) might have been wintering locally; additional spring vagrants were at Big Pine, *Inyo* 6-8 May (T&JH), at Yucaipa, *San Bernardino* 26 May (CK), n. of Inyokern, *Kern* 27 May (JBi), at Chiriaco Summit, *Riverside* 29 May (DMa), and on San Clemente Island 2-13 Jun (JTS). An Orchard Oriole was at Kelso, *San Bernardino* 28 May (JCS).

The most far-flung report of a Red Crossbill was of 4 on San Nicolas Island 7 May (DP). A Cassin's Finch in the Upper Santa Ana Mountains 25 Apr (CAM) was the only one recorded in *Orange* outside of fall 1996. Late reports of Pine Siskins included one on San Clemente Island through 18 May (TRL) and the Salton Sink's latest bird ever, one remaining until 24 May at S.E.S.S. (GMcC). A Lesser Goldfinch with nearly solid black upperparts at Sherman Oaks, *Los Angeles* 11-17 May (SL) was probably a variant from the local population rather than a vagrant or escapee from other populations. A few Evening Grosbeaks lingered in the Region, with 2 at Bakersfield, *Kern* 6-7 Apr (KH-L), up to 4 at Palomar S.P., *San Diego* 12-21 Apr (DMu, TSk), flocks of up to 30 in the San Bernardino Mountains in Mar–Apr, with the latest being one at Running Springs 15-19 May (SF), and one at G.H.P. 29 May (RTe).

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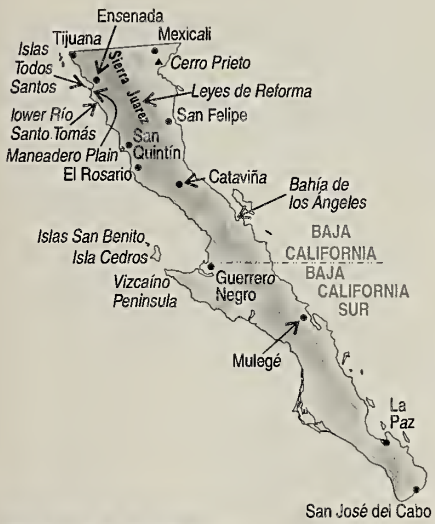
Baja California Peninsula



Richard A. Erickson
Roberto Carmona
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This season was marked by a spectacular addition to the Region's birdlist: Swallow-tailed Kite. Other notable species found included Nazca Booby, the continuing far northern White Ibis (extending even farther), and another Cape District Painted Bunting. Black Oystercatcher was documented nesting in the Gulf of California for the first time, and Great-tailed Grackle was recorded farther south in the Region than ever before.

DUCKS THROUGH TERNS

More ducks were seen at the end of May than is normal. These included 4 American Wigeons, a Northern Pintail, a Lesser Scaup, and a Bufflehead at Lagunita El Ciprés 26 May (AH); an American Wigeon at Guerrero Negro 27 May (DM); and the following at 11 locations around Guerrero Negro (both states) 25-28 May: 3 Northern Shovelers, 233 Northern Pintails, 122 Lesser Scaup, 6 Buffleheads, and 5 Red-breasted Mergansers (*fide* VAP). Eared Grebe showed a similar pattern, with one at Lagunita El Ciprés 26 May (AH) and 4616 at 12 locations around Guerrero Negro 25-28 May (*fide* VAP). The only tubenoses of note reported were 2 Cook's Petrels about 135 km se. of Isla Guadalupe 31 May (ph. JP). An ad. Wood Stork at La Paz 21 Apr (ph. PAG) continued the string of Cape District reports begun in Sep 2009. Masked Boobies were seen offshore from Bahía Magdalena 13 Apr (3, PAG), in the vicinity of Rocas Alijos 29-30 May (32, ph. JP), and n. of Islas San Benito 27 May (JP). The much less frequently reported Nazca Booby was identified at Cabo San Lucas 19 Mar (ph. CJN) and at Rocas Alijos 29 May (ph. JP). Brown Boobies nested again at Islas Coronado. Among 46 birds there 23 Mar were a number engaged in various forms of reproductive behavior (DWP).

Rarely reported waders on offshore islands this spring included a Little Blue Heron and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron on Islas San Benito 10 Apr (ph. PAG) and a White Ibis at Isla San Roque 8 Jun (LDIR). The Estero Punta Banda **White Ibis** was last seen 21 Apr (EDZH), and what was presumably the same bird was seen to the n. at La Salina 5 Jun (ph. LOS). Most remarkable by far this season was the **Swallow-tailed Kite** seen over La Ribera 26 Apr (†BP), establishing the first record for the Region. We assume the bird had wintered undetected in the Cape District rather than crossed the Gulf of California northbound. Also in the Cape District were late Sharp-shinned Hawks at Nopoló 17 Apr and La Victoria 20 Apr, and Zone-tailed Hawks at Puerto Agua Verde 16 Apr (2) and San Antonio de la Sierra 20 Apr (all PAG).

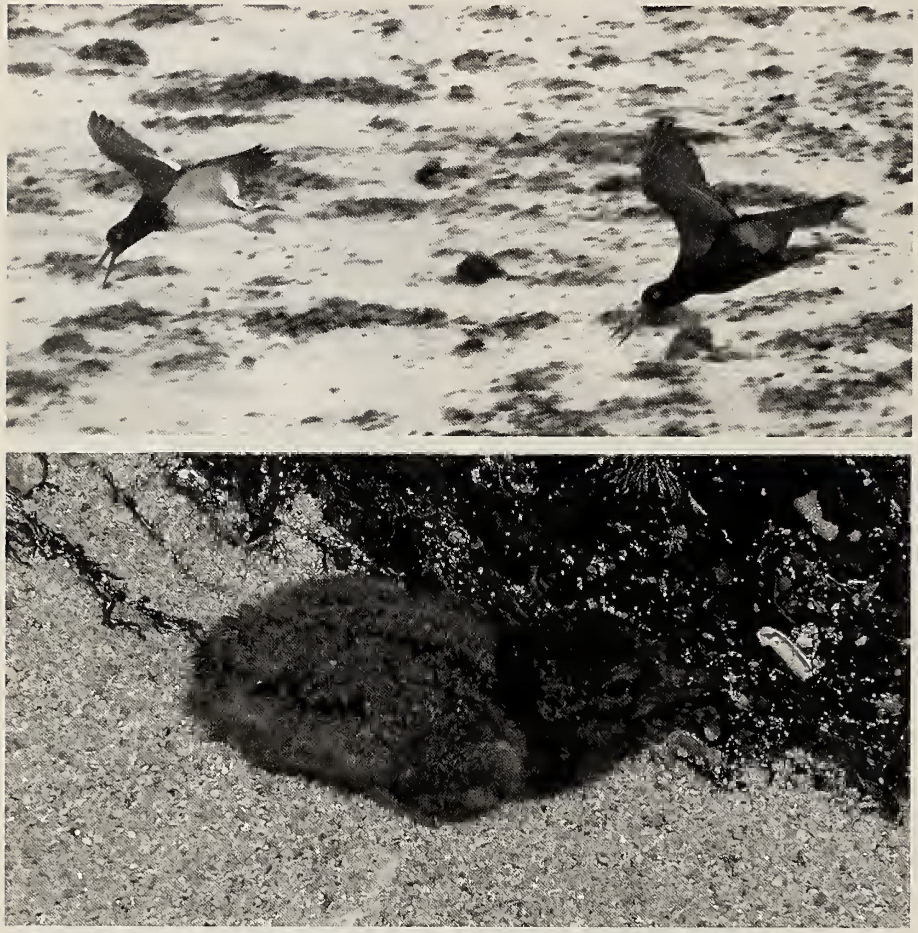
Unreported previously, Gary Strachan has seen one or 2 **Black Oystercatchers** during his residency each winter for the last four years at La Ventana, yet the species is essentially unknown in the Gulf of California. This year, a bird showing some impurity found with an American Oystercatcher 24 Feb was courting with the same bird on 7 Mar, had a nest with one egg 15 Apr, and the hybrid chick hatched around 5 May (ph. GJS). Over the same years, Strachan has seen Black Oystercatcher regularly at Punta Conejo, on the Pacific coast but well s. of the species' established range from about Punta Abreojos northward. Two American Golden-Plovers were found on the se. coast near Buena Vista 21 Mar (ph. BM). Like this one, most other Regional records have been of spring migrants in the Cape District. In contrast, single Solitary Sandpipers at Estero San José 15 Apr (MB) and Lagunas de Chametla 21 Apr (PAG) are believed to have wintered locally. As with the ducks, a number of shorebird species were seen in greater numbers than normal at the end of May: 15 Greater Yellowlegs, 5 Lesser Yellowlegs, 28 Dunlins, 198 Western Sandpipers, and 671 Short-billed Dowitchers at five Baja California locations n. of Guerrero Negro 27-28 May (*fide* VAP) and 4 Dunlins at Lagunita El Ciprés 26 May (AH). A notable concentration of 5500 Red Phalaropes was at sea off Bahía Magdalena 13 Apr (PAG).

A South Polar Skua was at Gorda Bank 27 May (AEM, JM). Recalling the late ducks and shorebirds mentioned previously, 57 Bonaparte's Gulls were at three Baja California Sur locations near Guerrero Negro 25 May (*fide* VAP). A Heermann's Gull and 2 Sooty Terns were at Rocas Alijos 29 May (JP). The tern nests there, but we are unaware of previous records of the gull.

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

Two Eurasian Collared-Doves were far at sea in the vicinity of Rocas Alijos 28 May (JP). This tramp species has now been recorded throughout much of the Region, land and sea. Reports of rare Regional species included a Short-eared Owl at the Guerrero Negro saltworks 26 Mar (*fide* VAP) and 2 Mexican Whip-poor-wills at La Laguna 24-26

This Nazca Booby was photographed at Rocas Alijos, Baja California Sur 29 May 2013. The species may nest there among the more numerous Masked Boobies. *Photograph by Jim Pea.*



This American Oystercatcher and (mostly) Black Oystercatcher were courting on the Gulf coast of Baja California Sur at La Ventana 7 March 2013, with the result of their labor photographed on 12 May 2013. *Photographs by Gary J. Strachan.*

Two American Golden-Plovers were found near Buena Vista, Baja California Sur 21 March 2013; the species is very rare on the Baja California Peninsula. *Photograph by Bob Martinka.*

May (AEM, JM). Seasonally late individuals included Merlins at Islas San Benito 10 Apr, Estero San José 19 Apr, and Lagunas de Chametla 21 Apr (all PAG), and a Western Kingbird at La Laguna 25 May (AEM, JM). Dusky Flycatcher nests in the Sierra San Pedro Mártir and migrates through the Colorado Desert in spring but is otherwise very rare in the Region. One was at Tijuana 2 May (†JSF). New potential nesting locations for the endangered Least Bell's Vireo included Cañada el Morro, n. of El Descanso (one singing, 5 Apr, RAE) and Heroes de la Independencia (2 on 4 May, JSF). A singing Plumbeous Vireo on Isla San José 15 Apr (PAG) appears to represent the first record for any of the Region's islands. Interesting reports of Northern Rough-winged Swallows included one at sea s. of Islas Todos Santos 9 Apr (PAG) and a high count of 25 at Estero San José 28 May (AEM, JM). A Hermit Thrush in the Sierra San Pedro Mártir at Campo Cimarrón 17 May (GRC) was fairly late but far from the only known nesting site in the same mountains (*Wilson Bulletin* 110: 119) and thus probably was a northbound migrant.

There were few warbler reports of note. "Late" birds in the Cape District included a Nashville Warbler on the road to San Antonio de la Sierra 20 Apr (PAG) and a Townsend's Warbler at La Laguna 24 May (AEM, JM); and early in the California District were 2 singing Yellow-breasted Chats at La Misión 3 Apr (RAE). Unusual in the lowlands of the Cape District was a Hermit Warbler at Lagunas de Chametla 21 Apr (PAG). And rare in the n. portion of the Region, 5 Lark Buntings were at El Socorro 3 May (JSF). Mountain White-crowned Sparrow (subspecies *oriantha*) is less numerous in the Region than Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow, but they linger longer. Eighty-five White-crowned Sparrows at Puerto Agua Verde 16 Apr were all *oriantha* (PAG), as were 6 at El Rosario 3 May (JSF), and presumably the last seen at Nopoló 9 May (TH). Eastern buntings managed a decent showing, with an Indigo Bunting at Bahía Asunción 20 May (CH) and 2 Indigo Buntings and a Painted Bunting among 30 Lazuli Buntings at Miraflores 19 Apr (Dani Lopez-Velasco, *fide* PAG). Great-tailed Grackle's colonization of the Region has been slower than we had expected (cf. *North American Birds* 62: 326), but progress was made this season. In Baja California, 10 were at high-elevation Rancho Japá 5 May (JSF), and in Baja California Sur, one at Cabo Pulmo 25 Apr (BP) established the southernmost Regional record. The only Purple Finch reported was at Tecate 6 May (RL).

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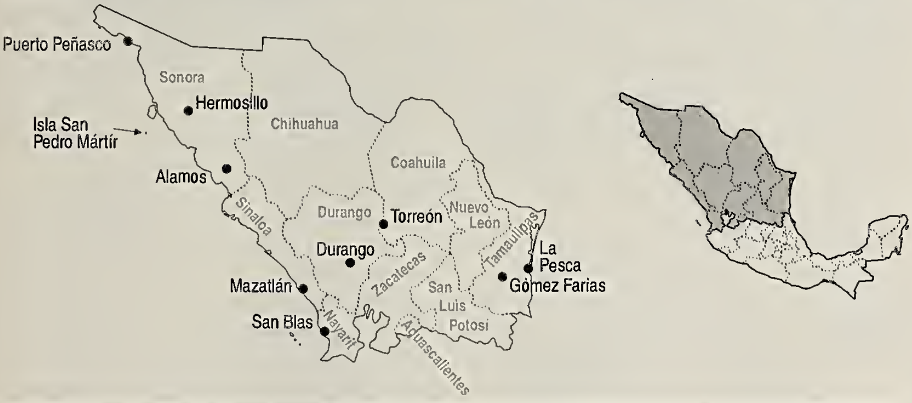
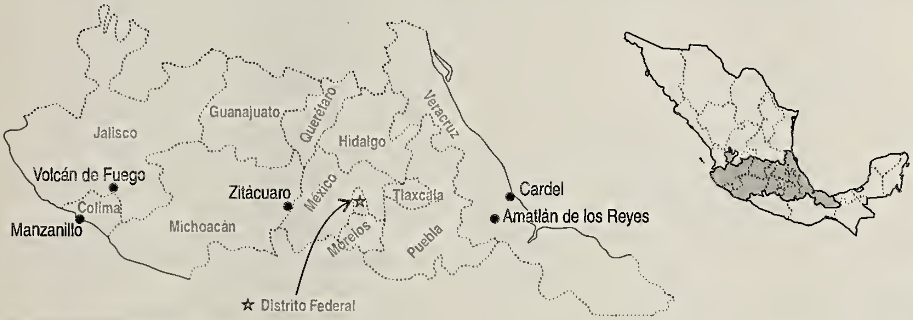
NORTHERN & CENTRAL MEXICO

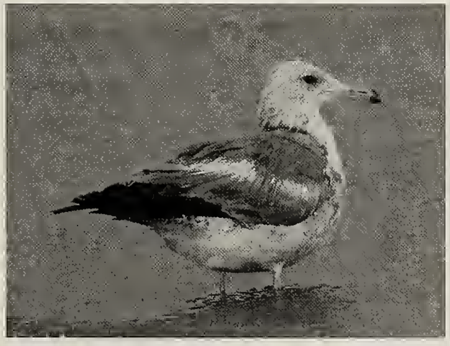




DUCKS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

A Ruddy Duck at Miradores lagoon, Ver. 18 May was possibly summering (JM, AM). A Brandt's Cormorant was unexpected at the Aticama river mouth, Nay. 10 May (MS). In Puebla, a Royal Tern was inland at Laguna Almoloya, Chignahuapan May 15 (ph. MB). Two Glossy Ibis were at Santa Alejandrina near Minatitlán 27 May (ph. MG). An ad. **Gray Hawk** was at Lomas de Bezares, D.F. 21 Mar (ph. MG); another or the same individual was at Lomas Altas, D.F. 17 May (ph. HCL). A pair of Collared Forest-Falcons was recorded at their nest in La Estanzuela Park, in the s. limits of Monterrey, Nuevo León 10 Apr+ (ph. RV, ph. AG, ph. AH, MG, RS, ph. RG, HV, ph. CN); the brood patch was evident in the female 16 May (ph. RV, ph. CN). A late imm. Cooper's Hawk was at Miradores lagoon, Ver. 18 May (JM, AM). A Franklin's Gull and 20 Ring-billed Gulls were at Valle de Bravo, Méx. 10 Mar (HGdS, MPV).

A male Blue Ground-Dove was at La Esperanza II near Huehuetla, Hgo. 31 May (ph. RP). Two Eurasian Collared-Dove × African Collared-Dove crosses were near Asociación de Charros Carlos Rincón Gallardo in San Juan de Aragón 7-30 May (ph. MBVO); this record comes nearly a year after the only other D.F. record. A pair of Yellow-headed Parrots was at Troncones near Ixtapa, Gro. in late Mar (NL). Pairs of **Monk Parakeets**, possibly nesting, were seen at Santa María Tonanzintla, Pue. 28 Apr and at San Francisco Acatepec, Pue. 28 Apr (ERV). Up to 50 **Maroon-fronted Parrots** showed up in urban Saltillo, Coah., away from their usual habitat, through Mar (ph. SMG). Three Burrowing Owls were on the Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila campus in Torreón, Coah. 31 Mar (FVP). A Western Screech-Owl was at Lomas de Bezares 4 Apr (v.r. MG). At least 5 White-tailed Hummingbirds were near the summit of Hwy. 134 near Ixtapa in late Mar (NL).



This subadult California Gull at Santa Maria Xadani, Oaxaca 30 April 2013 could well be the same individual found at this site in late October and early November 2012, which provided the first record in that state. *Photograph by Amy McAndrews.*

PASSERINES

A White-throated Flycatcher was at Tarango, D.F. 29 May (HGdS). An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was mist-netted at Santa Alejandrina 26 Mar (MG); the only previous record from the area was one mist-netted there 31 Mar 2011 (MG). A **Streaked Flycatcher** was recorded in La Estanzuela Park, N.L. 4 May (ph. RV). A **Tropical Kingbird** was recorded in Las Auras, a city park in Lerdo, Dgo. 13 Apr (FVP), and 2-3 were in the Instituto Tecnológico de La Laguna campus, Torreón, throughout Apr and May (FVP). A Gray Silky-Flycatcher was at Xola and Patricio Sánz, D.F. 5 Apr (HGdS, MPV). A Gray-breasted Martin was seen at Cuernavaca, Mor. 29 May (HGdS). A Northern Rough-winged Swallow was at Tarango 29 May (HGdS). Three Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen in La Estanzuela Park 10 Apr, with 2 still there 13 Apr (ph. RV, ph. AG, ph. AH, MG, RS, ph. RG, HV); we are aware of only one previous state record. A European Starling at Viaducto and Avenida Coyoacán, D.F. 12 Apr (HGdS, MPV) was a rarity in that part of Mexico City.

A Philadelphia Vireo was at Parque el Haya in Xalapa, Ver. 6 Mar (ph. AM); this is the second winter record in the area in recent years. Three Aztec Thrushes were near Arocutín, Mich. 12 May (GC). A male Yellow Warbler was singing in Reforma near the Angel de la Independencia, D.F. 28 May (HGdS, MPV). A male **Canada Warbler** was seen at Arocutín 25 Mar (GC). At least 3 Blue Seedeaters were heard at Cañón de Lobos, Mor. 29 May (HGdS). A male Dickcissel was near Metro Etiopía subway station, D.F. 4-5 May (MPV, HGdS); this is surely the same individual that was there 31 Jan, possibly an escapee. Two imm male Baltimore Orioles accompanied a small group of Bullock's Orioles at Tecuitata, Nay. 2 May (MS).

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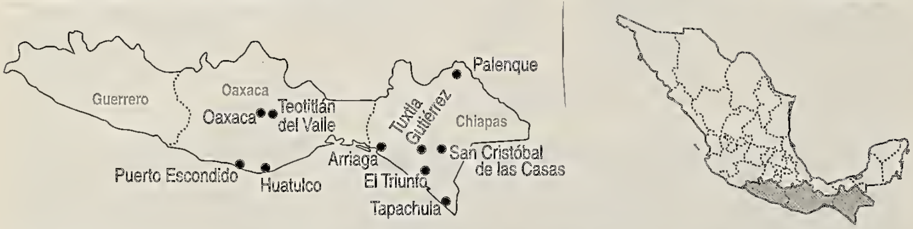
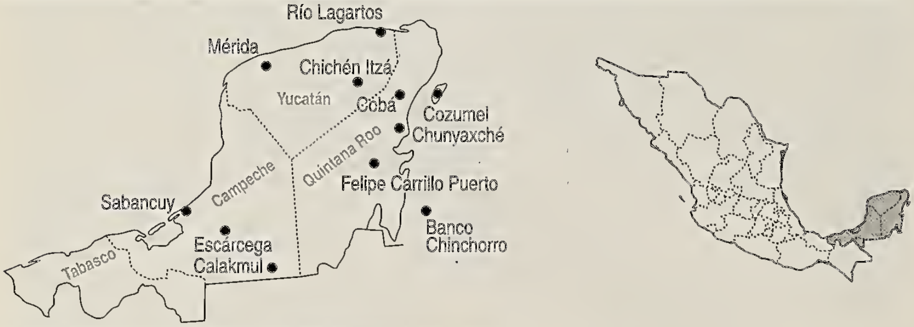
This Red-breasted Nuthatch was one of three found at La Estanzuela in Monterrey 10 (here) and 13 April 2013. There are very few records of the species for the state of Nuevo León. *Photograph by René Valdés.*

rio Guerrero, Antonio Hidalgo, Nick Lethaby, Sergio Marines Gómez, **Amy McAndrews**, **Jorge Montejo**, Carlos Navarro, Raúl Padilla, Mónica Pérez Villafaña, Emilio Roldán V., René Sada, Mark Stackhouse, **Francisco Valdés Peresgasga**, **René Valdes**, Miriam Beatriz Vargas Ortega, Héctor Villalón.

SOUTHERN MEXICO & YUCATAN PENINSULA





WATERFOWL THROUGH PUFFBIRDS

Seven Redheads were still present a few km n. of Celestún, Yuc. in the upper estuary at Pilares 25 Apr (AD). Late spring dates for ducks in Oaxaca included: a male and a female Redhead at a pond n. of La Ventosa 1 May (ph. JM, AM, AJ, CM, RM), 6 Ruddy Ducks at a pond e. of La Ventosa 1 May, and 12 Ruddies at Las Coloradas 11 May (JM, AM, AJ, CM, RM, RA). A male Redhead was photographed in a coastal lagoon in Paraíso, Tab. 11 May (ph. RCDM), and 2 Lesser Scaup were still at Puerto Arista, Chis. 26 May (PVE). Another late record was a female Northern Harrier nw. of La Venta, Oax. 1 May (JM, AM, RM, CM, AJ). An uncommon Sharp-shinned Hawk was observed while pursuing an Olive-throated Parakeet 17 Apr at El Remate in the Ría Celestún Reserve, Yuc.; an uncommon dark-morph Short-tailed Hawk was seen at Celestún 17 May (both AD).

The use of the n. coast of Yucatán by American Avocets is not well understood, as it is not clear where the increase of migrants passing through in spring is coming from, their numbers always being greater than those reported during the winter. One possibility is that individuals are more spread out throughout the subregion in winter; but increasing numbers are wintering in n. Central America as well. Late reports include 20 avocets, some in breeding plumage, in the coastal lagoon 2 km s. of Sisal, Yuc. 19 May (AI, BM) and 3 still at Río Lagartos, Yuc. 26 May (MK). A lone Pectoral Sandpiper was at a pond in Celestún 14 May (AI, BM). Accompanying the avocets at Sisal 19 May were 2 Lesser Yellowlegs and 30-50 Short-billed Dowitchers (AI, BM). A flock of 83 Wilson's Phalaropes was at Celestún 12 May (AD); 10 were feeding in the CRIT pond at Mérida, Yuc. 16 May (VL). An imm. California Gull was at Santa María Xadani, Oax. 30 Apr (ph. AM, JM, ph. RM, CM, AJ), possibly the same bird present there late Oct–early Nov 2012. An imm. Herring Gull at Santa María Xadani furnished a late spring record 30 Apr (ph. AM, JM, RM, CM, AJ), as did one at Paraíso, Tab. 11 May (ph. RCDM). A Swainson's Hawk, an occasional visitor to Yucatán, was reported 27 May at km 125 on the hwy. between Tizimín and Mérida (MK). A migrating Yellow-billed Cuckoo was found at Kiuic, s. Yuc. 16 May (MT). A late Peregrine Falcon was still at Celestún 25 May (AD). A White-necked Puffbird was at Comalcalco, Tab. 27 Mar (ph. AL).

PASSERINES

The first Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher of the season was noted 30 km sw. of Espita, Yuc. at Rancho Chucab 14 Apr (AI, BM). Three Barn Swallows were noted 19 May on the coast at Sisal (AI, BM). A Bell's Vireo heard 6 May ne. of La Venta, Oax. was a late migrant (AM, JM). Among many other migrants, an uncommon Philadelphia Vireo was observed in the low thorn forest 10 km s. of Chicxulub Puerto, Yuc. 19 Apr (BM). At Rancho Chucab, a Red-eyed Vireo was first spotted 14 Apr (BM); other singles were at Celestún 4 (AD) & 19 May (CP). Several Yellow-green Vireos were first detected at Rancho Chucab, Yuc. 13 Apr (BM). A Swainson's Thrush was at Celestún 5 May (AD). The low thorn forest located behind the dune vegetation along Yucatán's n. coast 10 km s. of Chicxulub Puerto on the road to Chicxulub Pueblo was full of migrating birds 19 Apr, with at least seven warbler species found feeding on very small green arthropod larvae in the leaves of a shrub 10 km inland: Black-and-white, Tennessee, Magnolia, and Yellow Warblers, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Parula, and Yellow-breasted Chat (AG, BM). This habitat is vital for Neotropical migrants. A male Golden-winged Warbler found nw. of La Venta 23 Apr was a new record for that part of Oax. (AM, AJ). South of its normal spring migration route, a Chestnut-sided Warbler was nw. of La Ventosa 2 May (AM); another was at Felipe Carrillo Puerto, Q. Roo 4 May (AD). A Northern Waterthrush was still at Calakmul, Camp. 19 May (MT). Two Audubon's Warblers were at El Triunfo camp, Chis. 30 Mar (ph. AM, ph. JM). A Prothonotary Warbler was at Laguna de las Ilusiones, Tab. 1 May (ph. RCDM).

A calling female **Rose-throated Tanager** was noted in forest 30 km sw. of Espita, Yuc. at Rancho Chucab 17 & 29 Mar (BM); this record adds to the distributional information for this forest tanager in the n. part of the state. A female Scarlet Tanager accompanied the warblers in the thorn forest 10 km s. of Chicxulub Puerto 19 Apr (AG, BM). Two Summer Tanagers were noted passing through Celestún 4 May, along with a male Scarlet Tanager (AD). A flock of 10-15 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and several Blue Grosbeaks were present at Rancho Chucab 30 Mar (BM). A late Blue Grosbeak was at Celestún 19 May (CP). At least 100 Indigo Buntings were in a flock at Rancho Chucab 28-29 Mar, feeding on seeds of *Herissantia crispa*; on 30 Mar, the numbers grew to 300-400, but all were gone by 20 Apr (BM). Eight Dickcissels were in a pasture 21 Apr halfway between Hunucmá and Sisal, Yuc. (CP).

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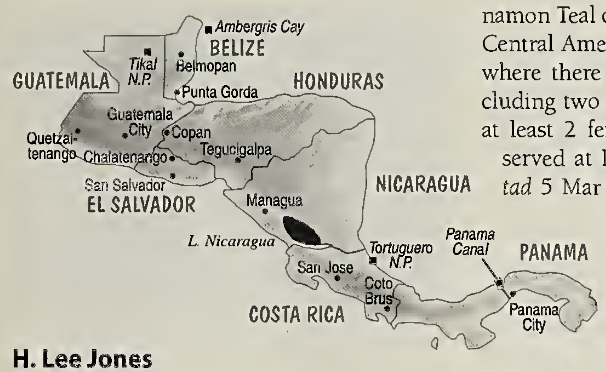


H. Lee Jones
Oliver Komar

This was an especially good spring for wading birds and migrant shorebirds in the Region, especially White-rumped Sandpiper and Wilson's Phalarope, which were seen in unprecedented numbers in areas where they normally rarely occur. Also occurring in unprecedented numbers this spring were American White Pelicans in Nicaragua and Belize. While the waterfowl invasion of this past winter continued well into spring, both the numbers and variety of species were down from the remarkable winter of 2011-2012.

This spring produced no fewer than eight, and perhaps nine, first country records. Topping the list was Costa Rica, which produced Central America's first Eastern Phoebe and third California Gull. White-tailed Tropicbird was also documented in Costa Rica for the first time, although there are two records without details from Cocos Island. El Salvador also recorded two country firsts: Clapper Rail and White-rumped Sandpiper. With one each were Guatemala (Glossy Ibis), Belize (Connecticut Warbler), Honduras (Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher), and Nicaragua (Kelp Gull). Nicaragua recorded its second and third Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Belize recorded its second Yellow-headed Blackbird and Panama its third. El Salvador logged its second Hudsonian Godwit, and Guatemala had its second Aplomado Falcon.

Abbreviations: C.T.W.S. (Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, Orange Walk District, Belize); M.P.R. (Mountain Pine Ridge, Cayo District, Belize).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAILS

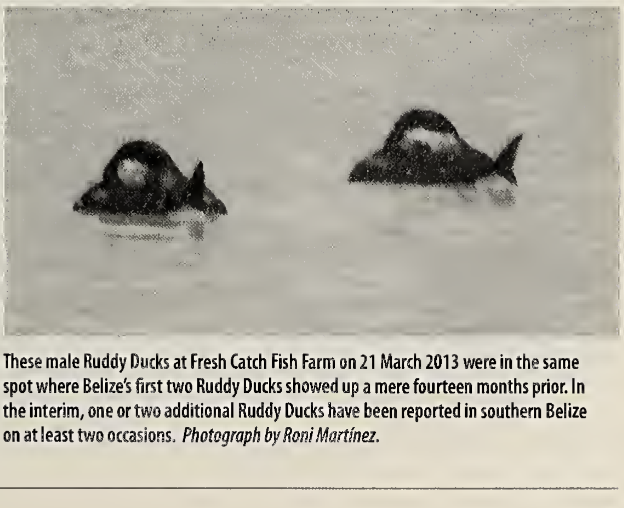
Fulvous Whistling-Ducks are found in Costa Rica almost exclusively in the dry nw. Pacific lowlands, but they occasionally show up in other areas, especially late in the dry season. On 10 Mar, 2 were seen in the Caribbean lowlands near the Nicaraguan border in the Medio Queso wetlands, *Alajuela* (KS). Cinnamon Teal continued its mini-invasion into Central America this season. In El Salvador, where there are nine previous records (including two others this winter), 4 male and at least 2 female Cinnamon Teal were observed at Laguna de Chanmico, *La Libertad* 5 Mar (ph. JvD, RJ). In Belize, where 3 males were seen last fall, a male was at C.T.W.S. 21 Mar (JK, LH et al.), and in Honduras, a female-plumaged bird was found in salt ponds near San Lorenzo, *Valle* 29 Apr (RJ, ph. JvD). In Belize, a Northern Shoveler on Lake Lolly Folly, *Cayo* 11 Mar (ph. RM, JU, SN) provided the first record for M.P.R., where little open-water habitat is available.

An ad. male **Ring-necked Duck** observed at Laguna de Chanmico 5 Mar (ph. JvD, RJ), provided only the third record for El Salvador. In Nicaragua, 7 Lesser Scaup in female plumage were observed at Salinas Grandes, *León* 26 May (LC, MB, GD), and 2 males were seen at Moyoa-Playitas-Tecomapa, *Matagalpa* 31 May (MB). These birds were either exceptionally late migrants or were summering. Adding to the growing number of Ruddy Ducks reported in Belize since it was first recorded in winter 2011-2012, 2 breeding-plumaged males were at Fresh Catch Fish Farm, *Belize* 21 Mar (ph. RM, RP et al.), and a female-plumaged bird was seen at Boden Creek Preserve, *Toledo* 24 Mar (LJ, WM, VB, EC). In El Salvador, an impressive 380 Ruddy Ducks were reported from Laguna de Chanmico 5 Mar (ph. JvD, RJ).

In Jul 2012, **Plain Chachalaca** was first documented in El Salvador in Montecristo N.P., *Santa Ana*. At this same location, up to 4 were reported on 13, 15, 22, & 24 Apr and 21 May (JA, MBo), providing convincing evidence of the species' continuing presence in that area. Rarely reported in Guatemala, a male Black-throated Bobwhite was seen 5 km n. of El Remate, *Petén* 17 May (JPC). A small group of Tawny-faced Quail, including at least one male, was seen 7 May in Panama along Pipeline Rd., Soberanía N.P., *Colón* (BH), where there are few recent records. On 18 Mar, 2 Parkinson's Petrels were seen about 24 km off Tamarindo, *Guanacaste* (ph. NB). These birds showed extensive molt in the remiges, which has been reported in the past for birds seen in early Apr. On this same trip, 6 Pink-footed Shearwaters were also seen (ph. NB). An ad. **White-tailed Tropicbird** seen at Tortuguero, *Limón* 16 Apr (ph. KK) furnished the first record for mainland Costa Rica. The only other report from Costa Rica was the mention, without explanation, of one ad. each at Cocos Island on 11 Jan and 6 Feb 1994 (Dudzik, K. J. 1996. *Revista de Biología Tropical* 44: 303-304). In Nicaragua, an impressive 1700 American White Pelicans were observed at El Guayabo wetlands, *Granada* 2 Mar (ph. MB, LC, GD); 1500 were still there

Ring-necked Duck is now a regular sight in many areas along the Caribbean slope of northern Central America, but the same is not true on the Pacific side, where it remains quite rare south of Mexico. The species was recorded in El Salvador for only the third time when this adult male was found on Laguna de Chanmico 5 March 2013. *Photograph by John van Dort.*

For the third winter in a row, Cinnamon Teal made news in Central America, with multiple sightings into spring 2013. This female-plumaged bird (far right) was found 29 April in salt ponds near San Lorenzo, Honduras, where there have been few if any published reports since the 1950s. *Photograph by John van Dort.*



These male Ruddy Ducks at Fresh Catch Fish Farm on 21 March 2013 were in the same spot where Belize's first two Ruddy Ducks showed up a mere fourteen months prior. In the interim, one or two additional Ruddy Ducks have been reported in southern Belize on at least two occasions. *Photograph by Roni Martínez.*

With only a few documented records for Central America, this adult White-tailed Tropicbird seen at Tortuguero on the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica 16 April 2013 was an exceptional find. *Photograph by Kas Koenraads.*

Glossy Ibis is one of several waterbird species that has been expanding its range into Central America from the north. It is now fairly common locally in Belize, but neighboring Guatemala did not record its first Glossy Ibis until this bird turned up in San Cristóbal Verapaz on the Caribbean slope on 15 March 2013. It stayed through the end of the month. *Photograph by John P. Cohill.*

6 Apr (MB). Some 600 were at Tisma Lagoon, *Masaya* 8 Mar (MB), and on 16 May, a late date, 60 were present at the spot where Lake Nicaragua drains into the San Juan River, *Río San Juan* (MB). In Belize, an estimated 1200 were at C.T.W.S. 21 Mar (RP, ph. RM, et al.). These large concentrations of white pelicans are unprecedented in the Region.

A Pinnated Bittern seen 10 km s. of Paso Caballo, *Petén* 27 Apr (ph. JPC, LV) were at a site where not previously recorded. Two Fasciated Tiger-Herons were observed 3 Apr and an ad. Rufescent Tiger-Heron was observed 9 Apr in the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve, *Colón* (AVN). These two species are rarely reported in Honduras, where they are at the n. limit of their range. In Nicaragua, 40 Great Blue Herons at Salinas Grandes 26 May (MB, LC, GD) made a high count for such a late spring date. Unusual at an inland location, a dark-morph juv. Reddish Egret was at C.T.W.S. 21 Mar–11 May (ph. LJ, m.ob.). Providing the first documented record for Guatemala, an ad. **Glossy Ibis** in basic plumage was found in San Cristóbal Verapaz, *Alta Verapaz* 15 Mar (ph. JPC). The bird was seen several times for the rest of the month (JPC, IP, APO). In Nicaragua, a Glossy Ibis over El Guayabo wetlands 13 Mar (LC, GD) was a first for that site.

A Hook-billed Kite was seen on or about 7 Mar (ph. CK) on Ambergris Caye, where the species is seldom reported. A juv. **Slender-billed Kite** seen near the Rancho Frío Ranger Station in Darién N.P., *Darién* 10 Mar (GB, ph. IP, JT et al.) provided only the third record for Panama and the first since 1959. A Sharp-shinned Hawk seen flying over The Dump, *Toledo* 24 Mar (LJ, WM, VB, EC) was the first from this well-birded Belize locality. With few records for Panama, a juv. Cooper's Hawk was seen soaring near the Los Quetzales Lodge, Guadalupe, *Chiriquí* 16 Mar (ph. JAC). A White Hawk seen 3 & 5 Apr in the Tequendamas and Las Isabellas coffee plantations, *Ahuachapán* (LA), although only about 10 km e. of El Imposible N.P. where the species is resident, was at a new location. Two **Solitary Eagles** seen and heard flying overhead twice in the same day at Camp La Vaquita in the Labú River drainage, Bosawás Biosphere Reserve, Northern Atlantic Autonomous Region 11 Mar (†LC, AV, GD) provided one of the few records of this rare bird in Nicaragua. A Zone-tailed Hawk seen 2 km sw. of the ferry crossing to Spanish Lookout, *Cayo* on 8 Mar (RM) was a noteworthy sighting in Belize. Another was at C.T.W.S. on 19 Mar (MO). One of the rarest raptors in Central America, a Crested Eagle was seen in Panama near the Rancho Frío Ranger Station 10 Mar (ph. GB). In Belize, one or more ad. Crested Eagles have been seen fairly regularly near La Milpa Field Station for the past several years, with the latest report coming 5 Mar (ph. VR). Nesting in the area is suspected.

Clapper Rail was documented for the first time in El Salvador 6 Apr (JvD, RJ, v.r. OK). This species, historically present on the Caribbean coast in Belize, has been documented recently on the Pacific side in Costa Rica (1998), Honduras (2010), and Nicaragua (2012). Hoping to find this species while birding in *La Unión*, the observers, using playback, elicited grunt call responses from three pairs in the Black Mangroves behind the San Ramón salt production facility.

On the heels of El Salvador's first Hudsonian Godwit in May 2012, two Hudsonian Godwits appeared near Agua Caliente on the shore of Cerrón Grande Reservoir on 3 May 2013. *Photograph by Marvin Segura.*

This juvenile Cooper's Hawk was a pleasant surprise as it flew overhead near the Los Quetzales Ecolodge in Chiriquí Province on 16 March 2013. There are only two or three previous records of the species for Panama. *Photograph by Jan Axel Cubillo.*

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Southern Lapwing continues to occupy new areas as it moves northward through Central America. In Nicaragua, 3 were seen at Tisma Lagoon 8 Mar (MB) and 2 were at El Castillo at the mouth of Río San Carlos, *Río San Juan* 18 May (MB). Southern Lapwing was first recorded in Nicaragua in May 2009. In El Salvador, 17 American Golden-Plovers observed at a salt pond 3 km sw. of El Tamarindo Estuary, *La Unión* 26 Mar (ph. AM) provided a first record for the department. In Honduras, 8 were seen flying over the coastal lowlands near El Tular, *Valle* 27 May (JvD, RJ). Although presumably passing through as migrants each spring, the species is nevertheless infrequently reported from many parts of Central America. First re-

The number of White-rumped Sandpipers migrating through Central America in spring 2013 was quite impressive, highlighted by El Salvador's first on 17 May (one of three birds, shown here) at the Handal salt ponds in Puerto Parada and another individual on 24 May at the Río Jiboa Estuary. *Photograph by Álvaro Moisés.*

corded in Nicaragua in Oct 2010, American Avocet continues to be reported at multiple locations. Two, one in breeding plumage, were at El Guayabo wetlands, a new locality, on 6 Apr (MB). In Costa Rica, one at La Ensenada in the upper Gulf of Nicoya, *Puntarenas* 6 Mar (UOCR, ph. EM) provided the only report for the 2012-2013 season; by contrast, there were numerous sightings in the 2011-2012 season, which were the first in Costa Rica in many years.

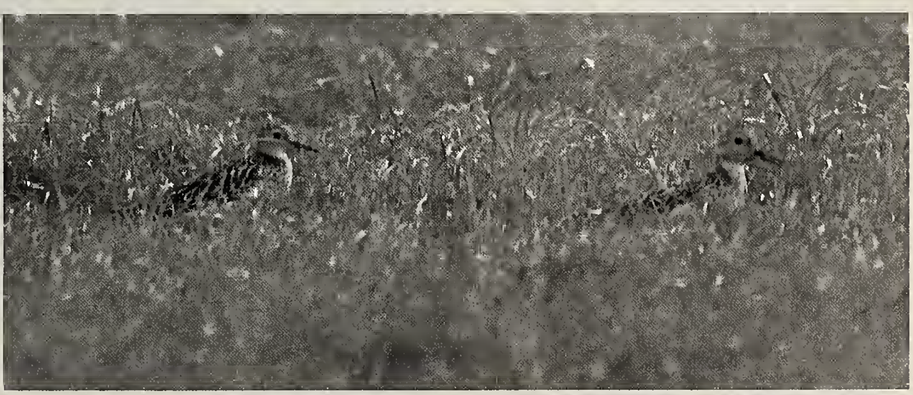
Belize tallied an unprecedented number of Upland Sandpipers this spring, with a maximum of 20 recorded at Western Lagoon, C.T.W.S. 24 Mar (GC). In El Salvador, 12 were seen at the salt pond 3 km sw. of El Tamarindo Estuary 26 Mar (AM), providing the first record for *La Unión*. One was seen at the same spot 6 Apr (ph. JvD, OK, RJ). Two **Hudsonian Godwits** observed near Agua Caliente at the Cerrón Grande Res., *Chalatenango* 3 May (ph. MS, FC, RPBM) provided El Salvador with its second record, the country's first coming less than a year earlier on 12 May 2012. Five Surfbirds seen at Huehuete Beach, *Carazo* 5 Apr (ph. EvdB) were noteworthy, as there are few records for Nicaragua. At Salinas Grandes, an impressive 300 Stilt Sandpipers were seen 16 Mar, and 400 were there 13 Apr (MB). Unexpected was a Sanderling at Fresh Catch Fish Farm 12 May (LJ, PB, EB), about 23 km from the coast in w. *Belize*. Topping off an unprecedented shorebird season in El Salvador were the country's first **White-rumped Sandpipers**, 3 birds found at the Handal salt ponds in Puerto Parada, *Usulután* 17 May (ph. AM, ECh). Just a week later, on 24 May, a lone bird was seen in the Río Jiboa Estuary, *La Paz* (ph. AM). In Honduras, a White-rumped Sandpiper was present 8-9 May at a salt pond near San Lorenzo, while a different individual was found there 18 May. On 27 May, the same site hosted 3 individuals (all RJ, ph. JvD). In Belize, where the species is a relatively common late spring migrant most years, a record **640** were at Fresh Catch Fish Farm 12 May (ph. LJ, PB, EB). In Guatemala, one at El Remate, Lake Petén Itzá 6 May and one at San Cristóbal Verapaz 27 May (ph, JPC) were noteworthy inland records. For a brief period in May, Baird's Sandpiper migration was evident in Honduras. Three were observed 5 May in cow pens at Zamorano University, *Francisco Morazán* (OK, ph. PS). The next day, 4 were present (OK, RJ, ph. JvD). On 8 May, 4 were also found feeding in a cattle pasture near San Lorenzo (RJ, JvD), where a single bird remained the following day (RJ, ph. JvD). El Salvador's fourth **Dunlin** was found in the salt ponds 3 km sw. of El Tamarindo Estuary 26 Mar (ph. AM). The other three records were all within the past year: May, Oct, and Dec 2012. Seldom reported from Honduras, 4 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were observed near San Lorenzo 8 May (RJ, JvD), where 3 remained the following day (RJ, ph. JvD). Providing only the sixth report for El Salvador, 6 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were seen near Agua Caliente at the Cerrón Grande Reservoir 1 May (OK, FC, RPBM, ph. MS). Two Long-billed Dowitchers were heard calling and subsequently studied well in a salt pond near San Lorenzo 7 Apr (OK, ph. JvD). Although rarely reported from Honduras, the species is likely overlooked.

Spring 2013 was a very good time to see Wilson's Phalaropes in the Region. In Belize, there were multiple reports, culminating in a high count of **34** at Fresh Catch Fish Farm 12 May (ph. LJ, PB, EB). In El Salvador, noteworthy numbers were observed at several sites, with a maximum of **100** at the Handal salt ponds in Puerto Parada 17 May (AM). Prior to 2013, there were only five records each from Belize and El Salvador. In Honduras, where the species is infrequently reported, Wilson's Phalaropes were observed throughout May, with a maximum of 41 at a salt pond near San Lorenzo 8 May (RJ, JvD).

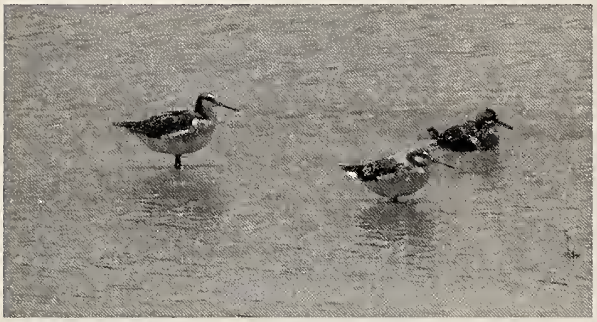
A Pomarine Jaeger observed near El Jaguey Lighthouse 6 Apr (OK, ph. JvD, RJ) furnished the first record for *La Unión*. Virtually the entire world's population of Franklin's Gull flies past the Pacific coast of Central America every spring. Nonetheless, the species is rare away from the Pacific coast. Thus, in Belize, 2 circling over the Dangriga, *Stann Creek* shorefront 8 Mar (LJ, WP, BP et al.) were noteworthy. In Nicaragua, one was observed at the spot where Lake Nicaragua empties into the San Juan River 19 May (ph. MB). A second-cycle **California Gull** that turned up at the Tarcoles River mouth, *Puntarenas* 2 Mar (ph. DL-V) provided the first record for Costa Rica and only the third for Central America. Despite subsequent searches by many, the only other reported sighting of this bird was 12 Mar (ph. JH). Closely following Nicaragua's first **Lesser Black-backed Gull** in Jan 2013, an ad. and a first-cycle bird were seen on the Caribbean coast at Bluefields Bay, *Atlántico Sur* 8 Mar (DH, FM). **Kelp Gull** is another species that is occurring with increasing frequency in Central America. The first report for Nicaragua came 2 May when a first-cycle bird was discovered at El Guayabo wetlands (ph. MB). The bird continued at this site throughout the period.

El Salvador's fourth record of Dunlin was found in the salt ponds 3 kilometers southwest of El Tamarindo Estuary on 26 March 2013; all four records have been from 2012-2013. *Photograph by Álvaro Moisés.*

On 26 May, 180 Least Terns were counted at Salinas Grandes (MB, LC, GD), a large concentration for Nicaragua, especially so late in spring. A noteworthy concentration of 35 Gull-billed Terns was observed at salt ponds e. of San Lorenzo 24 Mar (RB, MM). Forster's Tern appears now to be a regular winter visitor on the Pacific slope of Nicaragua. Following the report of one at Las Peñitas, Bocana Norte del Estero 22 Dec were reports of 20 at El Guayabo wetlands 2 Mar (MB) and 25 there on 6 Apr (MB). Up to 15 were reported at this same site in winter 2011-2012. A surprising 25 Elegant Terns, considered an uncommon species in Nicaragua, were found



Another exceptionally rare shorebird in El Salvador, six Buff-breasted Sandpipers were seen at the Cerrón Grande Reservoir near Agua Caliente on 1 May 2013. *Photograph by Marvin Segura.*



In what was perhaps the best spring migration on record for Wilson's Phalarope in Central America, Belize had multiple records in spring 2013, including an impressive 34 (2 here) at Fresh Catch Fish Farm on 12 May. Belize had only five previous records, each of one or two individuals. *Photograph by Lee Jones.*

With only five previous records from El Salvador, Wilson's Phalaropes were almost commonplace in spring 2013, with multiple birds seen at several sites, including an astonishing 100 seen at the Handal salt ponds 17 May. All 16 individuals seen at the Cerrón Grande Reservoir on 3 May are visible in this image. *Photograph by Marvin Segura.*

at the spot where Lake Nicaragua drains into the San Juan River 19 May (ph. MB). This species is almost unheard of at inland sites (or on the Caribbean slope), so this record was especially noteworthy.

DOVES THROUGH WOODCREEPERS

Belize's last Eurasian Collared-Dove-free outpost was its southernmost district *Toledo*. No longer. On 19 Mar, a lone bird was seen at Hopeville on the outskirts of Punta Gorda (CE, RF). A White-winged Dove at Blancaneaux Lodge 3 May (RM) was an apparent first for M.P.R.; this species is now being seen regularly at C.T.W.S. and may be nesting there (GC, RC). White-winged was first discovered in ne. Belize in 1967 and has been expanding its range southward and westward in the past 15-20 years.

The breeding distribution of Lesser Nighthawk in Central America is complex and poorly understood. Although long suspected to breed in Honduras, an active nest with a female incubating 2 eggs found 18 May in a salt pond complex near San Lorenzo (RJ, ph. JvD) confirmed that it breeds in Honduras' Pacific coastal lowlands, as in neighboring El Salvador and Nicaragua. There are few records of the poorly known **Ocellated Poorwill** in Central America, with widely scattered reports from Nicaragua to Panama. Before this spring, there were only two records from Costa Rica. On 26 Apr, 1-2 birds were heard and seen in open palm swamps and reforestation plots about 5 km ne. of Caño Negro, *Alajuela* (JDV, ph. KEa). At the same site on 29 Apr, one was seen possibly 2 others heard (VC, HV, JZ); one was also noted there 30 Apr (ph. SE, MSa). These observations established the third country record, all coming in the past 25 years. The two previous Costa Rica records were also from the n. Caribbean lowlands very near the Nicaraguan border. Away from Lamanai, *Orange Walk*, where it is present year-round and evidently breeds, Yucatan Nightjar is seldom reported in Belize, and its distributional limits and seasonal status are poorly known. Of interest was an individual that turned up on remote Half Moon Caye 8 Apr (ph. ECo).

Rarely reported from Nicaragua, 13 Chestnut-collared Swifts were seen at Santo Domingo, *Chontales* 16 Apr (ph.OJ). A Brown Violetear and a female White-crested Coquette, both rare in Panama, were seen at Cuesta de Piedra, *Chiriquí* 15 Mar (JAC, OQ). A late-staying female Ruby-throated Hummingbird lingered at C.T.W.S. until 10 May (DHe); they usually depart by mid-Apr. Elsewhere in Belize, a Stripe-tailed Hummingbird at Chan Chich 28 Mar (CS) provided one of the few records away from the Maya Mountains and the first for *Orange Walk*. A significant extension of the known range of Honduran Emerald was established when at least 8 were found near Gracias, *Lempira* 22 Apr (DG, WO et al.). Subsequent searches found the species at several new locations in that same area, nw. of Gracias. All recent reports of range extensions have been in w. Honduras, where it may have been overlooked in the past, or where it is genuinely expanding its range. These are the first reports from *Lempira*, and certainly good news for this endangered species. A Steely-vented Hummingbird observed in Refugio Bartola, *Río San Juan* 20 Mar (DH, FM) was in an area and habitat in Nicaragua where the species has not been seen before.

With few reports from Nicaragua, 2 Great Jacamars heard and another seen in response to playback below Camp La Vaquita 11 Mar (GD, AV, LC) were in an area and habitat where it would be expected. A Blue-crowned Motmot was seen at the unusually high elevation of 2250 m in Chelemhá Reserve, *Alta Verapaz* 11 May (JM), a first for this reserve. A Yucatan Woodpecker at Gallon Jug, one of the most heavily birded areas in Belize, on 2 Mar (ph. BZ) was approximately 50 km sw. of the nearest known population.

First reported in Nicaragua in 2009, and with few records since, a Slaty-backed Forest-Falcon was identified at Camp La Vaquita by voice 11 Mar (LC, AV, GD). Once a

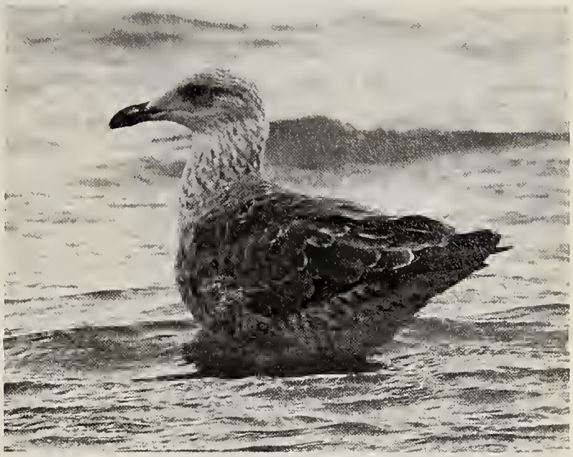
This second-cycle California Gull, only the third ever recorded in Central America, was seen at the mouth of the Tarcoles River in Costa Rica on 2 (here) and 12 March 2013. *Photograph by Daniel López-Velasco.*

common species throughout much of Central America, Red-throated Caracara is now considered rare n. of Panama, where it occurs locally. Encouraging, therefore, was the discovery of an active nest in Honduras near Gualaco, n. *Olancho* Feb–Mar (IZ, vt. LHe et al.). Within Panama, there have been few Red-throated Caracara records from the cen. portion of the country since the 1970s, so one seen at the Rainforest Discovery Center along Pipeline Rd., Soberanía N.P. 11 Apr (NS) was unexpected. An **Aplomado Falcon** near Tucán Uno, 48 km s. of Sayaxché, *Petén* 31 Mar (IS) provided the second sight record for Guatemala. Providing the first record for Altos del María, *Panamá* and one of the few reported w. of the Panama Canal, a pair of Blue-fronted Parrotlets was seen 7 Mar (DA).

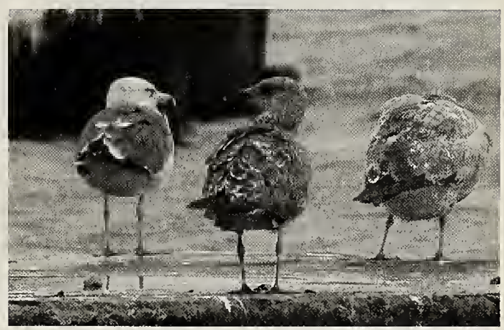
Seldom reported in Nicaragua, a female Wing-banded Antbird was mist-netted 5 Mar at Camp El Molejón, Bosawás Biosphere Reserve, and 2 more were heard at Camp La Vaquita 11 Mar (LC, AV, GD). Two Gray-throated Leaftossers were seen at different locations in the Fortuna Reserve, *Chiriquí* 1 Apr (ph. ECa), providing the easternmost record for this rare species in Panama. Also at the Fortuna Reserve 1 Apr was a rare Black-banded Woodcreeper (ECa).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH MUNIAS

Another rare and local species in Panama, a Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet was discovered 19 Apr at Cuesta de Piedra (ECa, ph. RK). A Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant was heard 9 Mar, and one was seen 11 Mar, at Camp La Vaquita (LC, AV, GD). First reported in Nicaragua in 2009, there have been only six reports for the country prior to this spring. Establishing the first record for Honduras was a **Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher** in the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve 21 Apr (RG). This species has perhaps been overlooked in the extensive Moskitia wilderness. It remains to be determined if the species has a resident population in the area. An Eastern Wood-Pewee heard singing at Belcampo Lodge, *Toledo* 17 Mar was an early migrant (LJ, EC). Seldom reported in Panama, a pair of Ochraceous Pewees was seen at the Los Quetzales Lodge 17 Mar (JAC). A remarkable find was an **Eastern Phoebe** at Wafer Bay, Cocos Island 27-30 Mar (EH, ph. GBl)—a first for Costa Rica and possibly for Central America. Lingering late in Honduras were 4 Cassin's Kingbirds at Cerro de Hula, *Francisco Morazán* 1 May (RJ, ph. JvD). On mainland Honduras, where the species is casual, a Gray Kingbird was an excellent find near Salamá, *Olancho* 6 May (ph. CF). Gray Kingbird is especially unusual in the interior away from the coast. A Fork-tailed Flycatcher at Zamorano University 18 Apr (OK) was unusual for the Pacific slope.

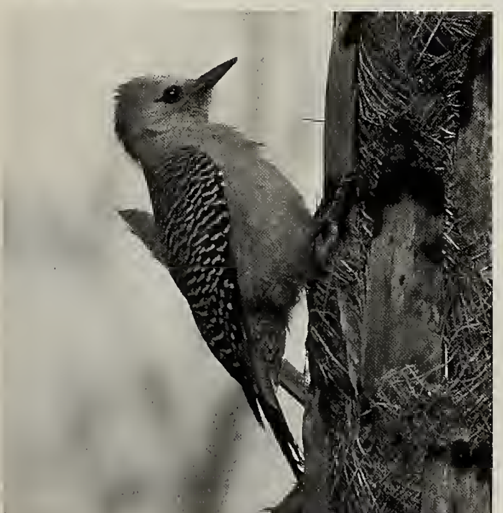


Prior to winter 2012-2013, the only Central American countries with records of Kelp Gull were Panama (several records) and El Salvador (one record). Costa Rica recorded what is generally believed to be a Kelp Gull in December 2012. The most recent Central American country to record Kelp Gull is Nicaragua, where this first-cycle bird was photographed on 2 May 2013 at El Guayabo wetlands. It remained throughout the spring period. *Photograph by Manfred Bienert.*



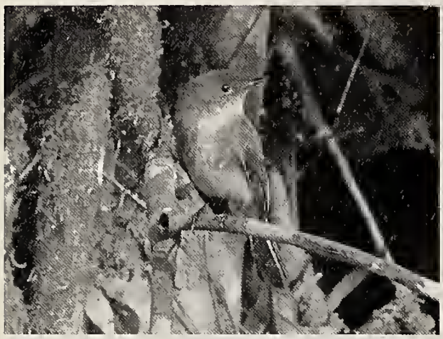
Only a month and a half after Nicaragua's first Lesser Black-backed Gull in León department on the Pacific coast, this adult, accompanied by an apparent first-cycle Lesser, was seen on the Caribbean coast at Bluefields Bay on 8 March 2013. *Photograph by Francisco Muñoz.*

The range of Black-chested Jay on the Pacific slope of Panama closely approaches Costa Rica, where birds have been seen sporadically on the Costa Rican side of the border since 2000. But Black-chested has yet to become established on Costa Rica's Pacific slope. On 24 Mar, 5 were seen with a flock of Brown Jays at 1000 m elevation on the Panama/Costa Rica border at La Unión de Coto Brus, *Puntarenas* (JZ). A single Common Raven was observed 17 May near San Luis, *Santa Barbara* (DG). This is a species with a spotty, fluid distribution in Honduras, possibly the result of persecution. In Belize, 200 Cliff Swallows were counted passing overhead during a 90-minute period 3 Mar (LJ), an unusually large number for this early in the season. In El Salvador, one observed at Laguna de los Negros, *La Unión* 3 Feb (OK, RJ, JvD) was most likely an exceptionally early spring migrant. One or 2 American Dippers, rare and local in Nicaragua, were seen daily 4-12 Mar on the Labú River and its tributaries in Bosawás Biosphere Reserve (LC, AV, GD).

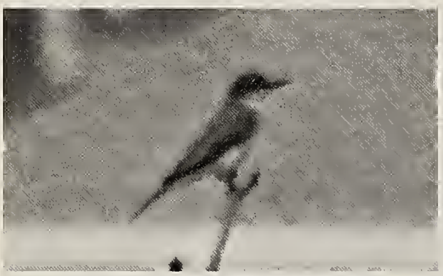


This Yucatan Woodpecker was found at Gallon Jug near the popular Chan Chich resort on 2 March 2013, a good 50 kilometers from the nearest resident population, providing the first extralimital record in Belize. *Photograph by Barry Zimmer.*

Single Veeries were seen at Tikal, *Petén* 26 Apr (JPC) and at Estación Biológica Las Guacamayas in se. Laguna del Tigre N.P., *Petén* 14 May (AV, ph. KE, CA). On the latter date, 2 Gray-cheeked Thrushes were also seen at Estación Biológica Las Guacamayas (ph. KE, AV, CA). These two species are not often reported in Guatemala. Especially rare on the Pacific slope of n. Central America, a Gray-cheeked Thrush was at Zamorano University campus in *Francisco Morazán* 7 May (ph. OK). In Belize, a Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush at Red Bank Village, *Stann Creek* 16 Mar (ph. NC et al.) was an exceptionally early spring migrant or was wintering. A Gray Catbird was observed on the grounds of the Universidad de El Salvador 2 Apr (MBo, JA, EMo, MV, YR), providing the first record for *San Salvador*. An exceptionally late Gray Catbird came to a bird feeder on Caye Caulker 24 May (J&DB). Few reports of Cedar Waxwing were received this spring. In Belize's M.P.R., 9 were observed at Blancaneaux



Perhaps the most unlikely vagrant of the season in Central America was this Eastern Phoebe that turned up at Wafer Bay on Cocos Island, 500 kilometers southwest of mainland Costa Rica, on 27 March 2013. A first for Central America, it remained through 30 March. *Photograph by Guillermo Blanco.*



Gray Kingbird is a rare bird in Central America north of Panama, especially in the interior. One near Salamá, Honduras, 105 kilometers inland from the Caribbean coast, on 6 May 2013 was therefore quite unexpected. *Photograph by Carlos Funes.*

Lodge 15 Mar (RM), and 13 were at Hidden Valley Inn 27 Mar (RP). In Guatemala, 25 were present at Los Tarrales, *Suchitepéquez* 11 Apr (KE, IS, RR). Only one was reported from Honduras, a flyover at Zamorano University 17 Mar (OK).

An ad. male Brewster's Warbler was seen at Los Naranjos Archaeological Park on the n. shore of Lake Yojoa, *Cortés* 5 Mar (OK); this was presumably the same individual found there 29 Jan (CF, RJ, ph. JvD). A Nashville Warbler was seen 9 Apr (ph. JvD) 19 km s. of Tegucigalpa, *Francisco Morazán*. This species is a rare migrant and winter visitor in Honduras. At Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge, an odd Prothonotary Warbler sported a rufous cap on 11 Mar (FM, ph. SH, m.ob.); a similar individual was photographed on the n. coast of Honduras, ne. of Tela, 12 Mar 2008 (*North American Birds* 62: 490). We encourage additional sightings of such birds to be reported. On 15 May, an unfamiliar bird at Blancaneaux Lodge, M.P.R. appears to have been a **Connecticut Warbler**, Belize's first (RM), described as having a conspicuous full white eye-ring and walking on the ground like an Ovenbird. Although Northern Parula is reported almost annually in Costa Rica, it has seldom been documented photographically. One, the second of the migration season, was found at 850 m elevation in Juan Castro Blanco N.P., *Alajuela* 29 Mar (ph. JDV).

It is unusual to have more than one report of Black-throated Blue Warbler in Costa Rica in one winter, but a bird seen at La Georgina Hotel, Villamills, *San José* 20 Mar (AB, AC) was the fourth reported in Costa Rica during the 2012-2013 season. And at 3100 m, it was also at an unusually high elevation. The ad. male found at Gavilán Lodge, Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí, *Heredia* in Jan was last seen 22 Apr (TD), an unusually late date. In Belize, a Black-throated Blue Warbler was at Blancaneaux Lodge 15 Mar (RM). A Palm Warbler at Cariari Country Club, *Heredia* 5 Apr (LS) provided one of the few reports from the Central Valley. In Costa Rica, Palm Warbler is most often seen along the Caribbean coast. A Hermit Warbler, rare in Costa Rica, was at 800-m Arenal Observatory Lodge, *Alajuela* 26 Mar (JDV), a rather low elevation for this species. Also noteworthy was a Yellow-breasted Chat in Tirimbina Rainforest Park, La Virgen de Sarapiquí, *Heredia* 19 Mar (BL).

A Bananaquit well seen at C.T.W.S. sometime in Apr (RC) was 50 km n. of any previously recorded on the mainland. In Guatemala, a first for Agua Volcano was an Azure-rumped Tanager at Finca El Zur, *Escuintla* 27 Apr (ph. AD, DnA, DvA). On 22 Mar, an Emerald Tanager was at Altos de Cerro Azul, *Panamá* (ph. BA), where few have been reported in the past 10 years. Scarlet-thighed Dacnis was first seen in Nicaragua at Refugio Bartola in Dec 2011. Since then, there has been one more report from the Bartola area and three reports from the Labu River drainage area, including the following: a male seen at Camp Labu-Revenido 7 Mar, and another male seen at Camp La Vaquita 11 Mar (both LC, AV, GD).

Rarely reported in Guatemala, a female Slaty Finch seen at Sierra de las Minas in Los Albores, *El Progreso* 21 May (JPC) was noteworthy. A Chipping Sparrow seen at Cattle Landing just outside of Punta Gorda, *Toledo* 23 Mar (LJ) provided one of the few records for Belize outside the pine belt, which reaches its s. limit 25 km away. Providing only the fourth record for Panama and the first since 1988, a **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at Guadalupe, *Chiriquí* 20 Mar (ph. JHr). What was almost certainly the same bird was at the same locality 10 Apr (ph. GS). In Belize, where Lincoln's Sparrow is regular but not annual, one was at Blancaneaux Lodge 15 Mar (RM).

A Summer Tanager at Mountain Equestrian Trails 12 km s. of Georgeville, *Cayo* 19 May (MBe) was a late spring migrant. Scarlet Tanager migrates mainly through the lowlands near the Caribbean coast in Guatemala, so 3 ad. males observed in the interior were noteworthy: at Los Tarrales, *Suchitepéquez* 7 Apr (JLL, ph. LM), 4 km ne. of Tucurú, *Alta Verapaz* 9 Apr (VF, RR, IS, KE), and at Uaxactún, *Petén* 11 Apr (ph. RMc). The Los Tarrales bird was the first to be recorded on the Guatemalan Pacific slope. A male Blue Seedeater, which occurs very locally in Guatemala, was seen in Finca Chajbaoc n. of Cobán, *Alta Verapaz* 13 Apr (JPC). At the extreme s. end of its winter range, a male Painted Bunting was seen near El Valle, *Coclé* 9 Mar (DA).

Yellow-headed Blackbirds are exceptionally rare vagrants to Central America. Providing what could be just the second accepted record for Belize, an imm. male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was at Blue Creek, *Orange Walk* 1 Mar (ph. VR, AS). Providing the third record for Panama (last in 1980) and the first away from cen. Panama, an imm. male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was found in a flock of Bronzed Cowbirds about 15 km sw. of David, *Chiriquí* 5 Apr (ph. CB). A new location was established for Bar-winged Oriole when, on 23 Apr, one was studied through a spotting scope at Montaña de Celaque N.P., *Lempira* (DG, WO). Previously known in Honduras only from the Ocotepeque Valley, this record signifies a significant range extension. An ad. male Bullock's Oriole, the only one reported this spring in Costa Rica, was rather far s. at Carara N.P., *Puntarenas* 8 Mar (CM).

A pair of vocalizing Spot-crowned Euphonias found 15-16 Mar at Cuesta de Piedra, *Chiriquí* (JAC, OQ) was unexpected this far e. in Panama. House Sparrow has only recently been reported in *Petén*. Three seen at La Libertad 27 Mar (KE, CA) established a new locality record. Reports of the non-native Tricolored Munia are becoming regular in Honduras, with records now from the n., s., and interior parts of the country. Two young males were on the campus of Zamo-

Other than an occasional bird showing signs of recent captivity, Yellow-headed Blackbirds are seldom recorded south of central Mexico. This immature male was found in the Mennonite village of Blue Creek in northwestern Belize on 1 March 2013, providing only the second acceptable record for Belize. *Photograph by Vladimir Rodriguez.*

rano University 24 Mar (OK, ph. PS), a new locality. They apparently moved on immediately, as future searches were unsuccessful.

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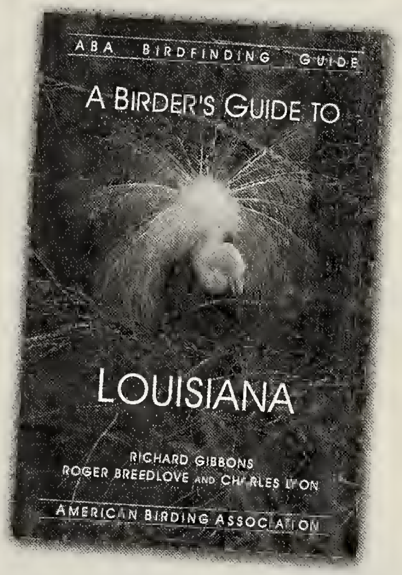

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West Indies & Bermuda

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THE BAHAMAS
Abaco I.
New Providence I.
Free-port
Eleuthera I.
Cat I.
Andros I.
Nassau
San Salvador
Long I.
Havana
Great Exuma
Crooked I.
TURKS & CAICOS IS.
CUBA
Acklins I.
Isle of Youth
Great Inagua
CAYMAN IS.
VIRGIN IS.
PUERTO RICO
San Juan
Port-au-Prince
Grand Cayman
St. Kitts
Barbuda
Antigua
Santo Domingo
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Kingston
HAITI
DOMINICAN REP.
Montserrat
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Swan Is.
LESSER
Dominica
CARIBBEAN SEA
ANTILLES
Martinique
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Providence I.
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COLOMBIA
VENEZUELA
Trinidad

Robert L. Norton (Greater Antilles)
Anthony White (Bahamas, Turks and Caicos)
Andrew Dobson (Bermuda)
Anthony Levesque (Lesser Antilles)

The spring was mostly quiet, with a few avian highlights for each part of the Region. At Bermuda, there were Band-rumped Storm-Petrels, an Atlantic Puffin, two Black Skimmers, Iceland and Glaucous Gulls, multiple South Polar Skuas, and impressive movements of pelagic seabirds. The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands each added a new species to its list this spring: Scaly-naped Pigeon and House Sparrow, respectively. A count of 25+ Kirtland's Warblers on San Salvador was unexpected and remarkable.

This report is dedicated to the memory of Tony Hepburn—beloved husband and father, invaluable Bahamian attorney, and an avid and skilled birdwatcher and photographer. He will be terribly missed.

WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

The Bird Club of New Providence (BCNP) found a West Indian Whistling-Duck near Grey's Point, Acklins Island 27 May. On 17 Mar, 2 were near Hotel Sol Cayo Coco, Cuba (AKe, GK et al.), with 7 at Cayo Coco 10 Apr (MGa et al.). A pair was seen at Tet Simon, Haïti 19 May (SCr). The last 3 of the winter's Canada Geese were at Tucker's Point G.C., Bermuda 30 Mar (AD). A female **Eurasian Wigeon** was last seen at Spittal Pond, Bermuda 30 Mar (AD), and a female American Wigeon was there 24-31 May (DBW). Two American Wigeons were at Vieux-Habitants 10 Mar (FD, ED) and Sainte-Rose 1 May (FD), both Guadeloupe. A Northern Shoveler was photographed at Great Pond, St. Croix 16 May (LY). A Northern Pintail lingered at Treasure Cay G.C., Abaco, Bahamas 21 May (EB). The long-staying (probably injured) Long-tailed Duck remained at Tucker's Point G.C., Bermuda into Jun (AD). A Red-breasted Merganser was at Maillis Farm, Adelaide, New Providence 22 Apr (ph. CW). The long-staying Ruddy Duck was at Cloverdale Pond, Bermuda into Jun (AD). An impressive flock of 100 was at Embalse Niña Bonita, a large reservoir in w. Cuba, 10 Mar (AKe, GK et al.).

Twelve Northern Bobwhites near Nassau, Bahamas 12 Mar (EB, TH) were probably recent releases, but one at Bahama Palm Shores, Abaco 12 May (EB) was more likely an established resident. American Flamingos are common on Acklins Island, Bahamas, e.g., 35 on 28 Mar (DC) and 19 on 27 May (BCNP). The species nested there in 1976, but there is no sign of current nesting. At Cuba's Río Maximo Flamingo Refuge, more than 1000 were present 16 Mar (AKe, GK). Four were reported at Trou Caiman, Haïti 14 Mar (AJ).

A two-hour seawatch from Cooper's Point, Bermuda 17 Apr provided 2 Cory's, 2 Sooty, and 110 Manx Shearwaters, and 16 Wilson's, 28 Leach's, and 44 unidentified storm-petrels (AD, PW). During a seawatch at Pointe des Châteaux, Guadeloupe 1 Apr, 2 Sooty and many Manx Shearwaters were observed (FD). Strong counts of Audubon's Shearwaters were 30+ off Green Turtle Cay, Abaco 1 Apr (EB, KK) and 60 off the Berry Islands, Bahamas 3 Apr (VK). A Wilson's Storm-Petrel was observed 16 Mar during a transit from Spanish Wells, Eleuthera to Little Harbour, Abaco (PRo). Highlights of Wingate's trip on the R.V. *Explorer* 14-18 May off Bermuda included a **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel** and a Masked Booby 16 May; Wingate recorded another Masked Booby 24 Apr. Two Red-footed Boobies, one of each morph, nested on Cato Cay, San Salvador among the 400 Brown Boobies 9 May (EB, BH). A Red-footed was seen from shore at Sainte-Rose, Guadeloupe 1 May (FD). Two Neotropic Cormorants on San Salvador 5-11 Mar (BC) and 8 May (ph. BH, EB) were the first documented on that island since 1991; earlier specimens were re-identified and described as a "diminutive" subspecies of Double-crested Cormorant (*P. a. heuretus*). Another Neotropic Cormorant was seen 23 Mar at Treasure Cay G.C., Abaco, where rare (EB). The scarcity of fresh water on Abaco may limit colonization by Neotropic Cormorants. Eighty-five American White Pelicans were seen at Las Salinas, Zapata Swamp, Cuba 11 Mar (AKe, GK et al.). Two American White Pelicans at Great Lake, San Salvador 10 Mar (ph. BC) were possibly the first for that island.

A rare American Bittern was at Gerace Research Centre, San Salvador 15-16 Mar (BC, WH). A Least Bittern was at Paget Marsh, Bermuda 25 Apr (GB). Great Egrets congregate before migrating northward, so a flock 38-40 on Lakeview Pond, Paradise Island 14-15 Mar (CW, LHu) was not unexpected. A White Ibis was found at Rainbow Beach Peninsula, Haïti 11 May (SCr). Few ibises were reported in the Bahamas this spring. Six White Ibis were seen 5 May on North Bimini, where they nest (WP), and 4 Glossy Ibis were on Paradise Island 14 Mar (ph. LHu). A Glossy attracted birders at Sainte-Rose, Guadeloupe 22 Apr (RG, JF, FD, ED). Up to 2 Swallow-tailed Kites were on Bermuda 10-31 Mar; reports in the Bahamas all came from Abaco: 2 at Robert's Nursery, Treasure Cay 7 Mar (EB), one at Rocky Point 9 Mar (DCl), and one at Marsh Harbour 6 May (OP). Another was noted in the Vinales Valley, Cuba 9 Mar (AKe, GK et al.). Northern Harriers were reported from Crooked Island 16-23 Mar (DC, JW) and Treasure Cay, Abaco 30 Mar (EB, HA). Two Gundlach's Hawks were enjoyed in the Vinales Valley, Cuba 9 Mar (AKe, GK et al.).

Four Yellow-breasted Crakes were recorded at Elim Ponds, Jamaica 18 Apr (RH). A Sora was at Neltjeberg Pond, St. Thomas 27 Mar (RW). A Purple Gallinule was at Hobby Horse Lake, New Providence 10 Mar (FS). At St. Croix, an imm. Purple Gallinule was at the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture Lower Pond 5 Mar; it and an ad. were seen at this pond 6-7 Mar (LY, SF, AC, JL), perhaps evidence of breeding. A Limpkin on Elbow Cay, Abaco 22 Mar (BW) was unexpected. Six Black-necked Stilts were present on Mid-Ocean G.C., Bermuda 27-31 May and later (RC). One was along Chancery Lane, Barbados 1 May (JMo). An American Avocet frequented United Estates, San Salvador 16 Mar–9 May (WH, PR, EB, BH). In the Bahamas, an American Oystercatcher was on East Plana Cay 27 Mar (DC, JW, TW), and 6 were seen at Sandy Point, Abaco 12 May (EB). An American Golden-Plover was on Cooper's Island, Bermuda 22 Mar (DBW). Piping Plover was reported from Salinas de Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico 10 Apr (AMP). A Killdeer was present in a wetland at Sainte-Rose, Guadeloupe 16-17 Mar (JF, CF, FD).

A **Common Greenshank** made a rare record at Woodbourne Shorebird Refuge, Barbados 4 Apr (JMo), among a group of Greater Yellowlegs. Willets made a good showing this spring at Sandy Point, Abaco, with 15 there 6 Apr (EB); 20 flew by Bonefish Pond, New Providence 22 Apr (ph. CW); 20 were on Acklins Island 27 May (BCNP); and 6 were at San Salvador 7-8 May (BH, EB). Seventy-five Lesser Yellowlegs on Acklins Island, Bahamas 30 Mar made a good count (DC, JW). An Upland Sandpiper at BASH, Nassau was unexpected (TH, WP). A Whimbrel was at Crossing Rocks, Abaco 14 Mar (HA). Three Red Knots and 70 Short-billed Dowitchers were on Green Turtle Cay, Bahamas 21 Mar (EB, MP). A **Ruff** was seen foraging with Ruddy Turnstones on the mudflats at Great Pond, St. Croix 28 May (ph. LY). Seventeen Sanderlings were on Bermuda's s. beaches throughout Mar (AD). Twenty

Dunlins were recorded at Las Salinas, Zapata Swamp, Cuba 11 Mar (AKe, GK et al.); the species is considered a rare migrant in the Greater Antilles. Seven White-rumped Sandpipers were unexpected on San Salvador 9 May (BH, EB).

A **Black-legged Kittiwake** was seen at Evans Bay, Bermuda 16 Mar (WF). Five Bonaparte's Gulls were seen in Harrington Sound, Bermuda 11 Mar (AD); one was at Treasure Cay Beach, Bahamas 14 & 16 Mar (EB). At the Cayo Paredon Grande and Cayo Coco bridge, Cuba, an injured Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen 17 Mar (AKe, GK et al.); the local guide, Odey, had originally found this bird during the previous year, and it was seen there again 10 Apr (MGa et al.). An **Iceland Gull** was present at Mangrove Bay, Bermuda 16-30 Mar (PH), and an ad. **Glaucous Gull** photographed off Bermuda 26 Feb (DBW) was almost certainly the bird that frequented the Royal Naval Dockyard 2-13 Mar (PH). The tern colonies in Graham's Harbour, San Salvador held 50 Brown Noddies, 200+ Sooty Terns, and 12 Bridled Terns 8 May (EB, BH). A very good-sized colony of 45 Roseate Terns was found at Whale Cay, Abaco 25 May (EB). Bracey and Hallett counted 110 Gull-billed Terns on San Salvador itself the next day. Ten Black Terns were counted at Río Grande de Anasco, w. Puerto Rico 27 Mar (PAR). Four Common Terns returned to breeding grounds at Little Sound, Bermuda 28 Mar (PH); however, Wingate reports that there was no nesting underway until 24 May, almost three weeks later than usual. There appears to be only one male/female pair left in Bermuda, where Wingate has studied the (endemic?) population for many decades now. Four Common Terns were noted off Lubber Quarters Cay, Abaco 6 May (IB, KI); a late bird seen 27 May (CH) at Tamarindo Estates, Culebra, Puerto Rico raises the question of its status: a breeder or late migrant? A Forster's Tern remained at Dockyard, Bermuda through 30 Mar (AD). Twenty-six Sandwich Terns were at North Bimini 5 May (WP); one was in Little Sound, Bermuda 29-30 Mar (PW). Two rare Black Skimmers flew past Commissioner's Point, Bermuda 20 Mar (PH).

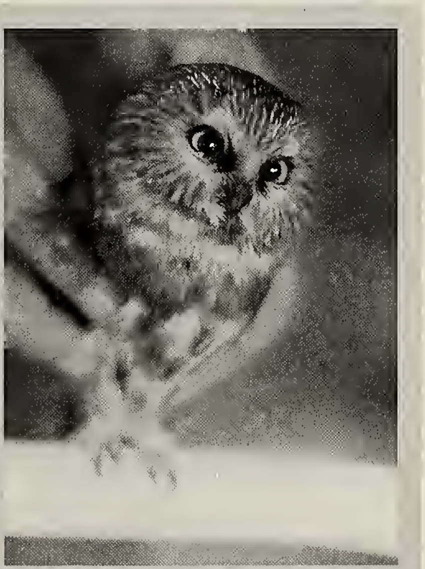
During a seawatch at Pointe des Châteaux, Guadeloupe 24 Mar, a **South Polar Skua** was seen, plus Pomarine Jaegers, Parasitic Jaegers, and 2 Long-tailed Jaegers (FD). On 1 Apr, the same observer described a single **Great Skua** there, almost unknown in the Region and not yet verified. The *R.V. Explorer* cruises off Bermuda recorded 7 South Polar Skuas (2 each day 14-16 May; one on 17 May). The Cooper's Point seawatches at Bermuda counted 26 Pomarine, 8 Parasitic, 9 Long-tailed, and 20 unidentified jaegers 17 Apr (AD, PW). An Atlantic Puffin found dead on Tucker's Town beach, Bermuda 14 Mar (JC) was the first of 6 found washed up dead on beaches during Mar; Bermuda's first live **Atlantic Puffin** was photographed over Challenger Banks 10 Apr (MW).

A **Scaly-naped Pigeon** photographed on Great Inagua 7 May (ph. HN) provided the first documented record of this species for the Bahamas. Cuba and Hispaniola are closer to Great Inagua than is any Bahamian island likely to have an aviculturist. A Eurasian Collared-Dove appeared at Fairylands, Bermuda 2 Mar (PW). One at North Creek, Grand Turk 8 May (GMcC) and 3 at Cockburn Harbour, South Caicos 18 May (BNM, JH, ph. LZ) provided the third and fourth records for the Turks and Caicos. The two earlier records, 2 May 2011 (LS) and 3 Feb 2012 (DECR), were on Grand Turk. A White-winged Dove was at Vieux-Habitants, Guadeloupe 10 Mar (FD, ED). A Bay-breasted Cuckoo and an Ashy-faced Owl were at La Vega, Dominica Republic 23 Apr (GL-O). A probable Short-eared Owl was reported at Sampson Cay, Exumas in late Apr (M&CP, *fide* WM). Three Common Nighthawks were seen and heard over North Bimini 5 May (WP). The earliest report in the Bahamas of an Antillean Nighthawk was one over Lake Killarney, New Providence 27 Apr (CW, WP). The first Antillean Nighthawk of the season at Guadeloupe was at Lamentin 20 Apr (JF, CF). The whip-poor-will on San Salvador found in Feb was noted 3 & 10 Mar (BC, MA) but was not photographed. The first arriving Black Swifts for Guadeloupe were 4 at Lamentin 27 Mar (AL). A very early Chimney Swift was at East End Dairy, Bermuda 28-30 Mar (PW). A migrant Ruby-throated Hummingbird was seen at the Waterways, Grand Cayman 6 Apr (AG). A Peregrine Falcon at Hamilton, Bermuda was last noted 6 May (DBW). Peregrines were noted at the Marls Overlook, near Treasure Cay 16 Mar (EB), on Crooked Island 16-23 Mar (2 birds; DC, JW), at East Plana Cay 27 Mar (DC, JW, TW), and at the Gerace Research Centre, San Salvador 10 May (EB, BH).

PASSERINES

An Eastern Wood-Pewee was at Angelfish Point, Abaco 27 Mar (EB, DG). Single East-

SA Just recently, three photographs of a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** taken by Nancy Albury in winter 1992-1993 were located at the Bahamas National Trust. The owl was discovered near the n. end of Man-o-War Cay, Abaco and was brought to her for rehabilitation. She realized the bird was near death and took the photographs. Albury remembers the season but not the date of the incident. The incident and season were also mentioned in an email to White from Ralph Hagopian in 1998, but the record had not been pursued because both the specimen and the photographs were assumed to have been lost. This marks the first record of a Northern Saw-whet Owl in the West Indies proper. The species is casual on Bermuda and very rare in Florida.



This Northern Saw-whet Owl was found injured near the north end of Man-o-War Cay, Abaco Island, Bahamas some time in winter 1992-1993; these photographs, thought lost, were recently discovered at the Bahamas National Trust. *Photographs by Nancy Albury.*

ern Phoebes were at Lakeview Ponds, Paradise Island 4 Mar (CW ph.) and Discovery Beach, Grand Bahama 1 Apr (DM). In his surveys of Crooked and Acklins Islands in the 1980s, Buden commented on La Sagra's Flycatcher's presence on Crooked Island and its absence from Acklins. This spring, Currie and Wunderle found 3 on Crooked Island and 3+ on Acklins at five different locations; in May, the BCNP found 7 on Crooked and none on Acklins. An Eastern Kingbird was at St. Georges G.C., Bermuda 10 Apr (PW); another was at the dump at Sandy Point, Abaco 6 Apr (EB). The first returning Gray Kingbird for the Bahamas was one at Nassau 11 Mar (AK). Wolck found a White-eyed Vireo on Elbow Cay, Abaco 5 May. Red-eyed Vireos were seen at the Retreat, Nassau 29 Mar (CW) and at Bahama Palm Shores, Abaco 6 Apr (EB). The earliest report of a Black-whiskered Vireo was one in the Primeval Forest N.P., New Providence 1 Apr (CW); one 8 May on San Salvador, where they are rare, was also noteworthy (BH, EB). A female Purple Martin was photographed at the fruit farm, Abaco 13 May, a late date for that early spring migrant (ph. BH, EB). Four Golden Swallows were reported at Ti Letan, Grande-Anse, Haïti 25 Mar (AJ). Two Bahama Swallows at Arawak Cay, Nassau 13 May (ph. LHu) and another there 19 May (WP) perhaps indicate nesting at Arawak Cay for the third straight year; this is the only known nesting site on New Providence. On 16 Mar, a House Wren was at the Cooperstown Dump, Abaco (EB, BB). A Zapata Wren was reported at La Turba 8 Apr (MGa et al.)—one of the few recent reports from that area, in the n. portion of Zapata Swamp. Wolck found a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on Elbow Cay, Abaco, the first he has seen there one since 1999. A Wood Thrush at Garden of the Groves, Grand Bahama 14 Apr (MAF) was locally rare. Single American Robins were seen in different parts of Grand Bahama 11-12 Mar (WH). Neither Currie and Wunderle (23-27 Mar) nor the BCNP (25-29 May) found a Pearly-eyed Thrasher on Acklins Island, where the species was thought to be common. Two Bahama Mockingbirds visiting a home in Winton, Nassau 15 Mar–8 Apr were unusual in an urban location (LHa).

Of the 20 species of warblers noted 8-18 Mar in Cuba, 17 were migrants, including a single Worm-eating, a Hooded, and a Magnolia Warbler (AKe, GK et al.). Two Louisiana Waterthrushes were photographed at Neltjeberg Pond, St. Thomas 27 Mar (RW). On Bermuda, a Blue-winged Warbler was at Warwick Pond 22 Mar and another at Government House 13 Apr (AD). Uncommon to rare warblers found in the Bahamas archipelago this spring included a Tennessee Warbler at Abaco 27 Mar (EB, DG), a Nashville Warbler at San Salvador 10 Mar (BC), Hooded Warblers at San Salvador 3, 5, & 10 Mar (BC), Hooded Warbler at Abaco 27 Mar (EB, DG), Bay-breasted Warbler at Elbow Cay, Abaco 8 May (BW), Black-throated Green Warbler at Providenciales 10 Mar and North Caicos 12 Mar (SC), Black-throated Green Warbler at New Providence 13 Mar (TW, EB), and Yellow-breasted Chat at Coco Cay, Berry Islands 4 Apr (VK). A Palm Warbler was at Great Pond, St Croix 12 Mar (LY), and at least 2 were at West End Salt Pond 20 Mar (CCB, LY). A late Black-and-white Warbler was noted at Grande-Anse, Guadeloupe 27 Apr (AMAZONA). Roberts reported Kirtland's Warblers on San Salvador 3, 10, & 11 Mar and 1 Apr; Bracey found one at Hole-in-the-Wall, Abaco 21 Apr. Researchers specifically looking for Kirtland's Warblers found 3 on Crooked Island 6-23 Mar, none on Acklins Island 23-27 Mar, 25+ on San Salvador 30 Mar–7 Apr, and 12 on Eleuthera 7-14 Apr (JW, DC, DE). They attributed the lack of Kirtland's Warblers on Acklins Island to the fact that the bird's preferred food plants were not fruiting. Pinder encountered a small fallout of 42 American Redstarts and 16 Common Yellowthroats on North Bimini 5 May. A female Black-throated Green Warbler was observed feeding at Brookshill, St. Croix 29 Apr (CCB).

The Kirtland's Warbler researchers also found 4 Western Spindalises on San Salvador 31 Mar–7 Apr (DC, JW, DE). Single Lincoln's Sparrows were seen at the Gladstone Road Agricultural Center, New Providence 12 Mar (EB, TH), at Big Bird Poultry Farm, Abaco 25 Mar (EB, DG), and on Acklins Island 30 Mar (ph. DC). A Summer Tanager was at Gerace Research Centre, San Salvador 5 Mar (WH), and a Scarlet Tanager was at Elbow Cay, Abaco 3 May (BW). A male Scarlet was at Vesey Nature Reserve, Bermuda 28 Apr (JV); another was photographed at Welcome, St. Croix 1 May (MG). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Gerace Research Centre 16 Mar (BC), and 2 visited feeders and water in Winton, Nassau 18 Mar–18 Apr (LHa). White found a Blue Grosbeak on Acklins Island 23 Mar; another was at Spittal Pond 7 Apr (NM). An Indigo Bunting was seen feeding in Gumbo Limbo at Désirade Island, Guadeloupe 10 Mar (AL). A Red-winged Blackbird remained at Mid-Ocean G.C., Bermuda through 14 May (AD). A Bobolink flew over St. Georges G.C., Bermuda 9 Apr (PW). Two Indigo Buntings inhabited Great Pond, St. Croix 12 Mar (LY). A migrant Painted Bunting at Kew, North Caicos 11 Apr was a rare find (JBu).

Six **White-winged Crossbills** were still visiting a garden in Southampton, Bermuda 21 Mar (J-PR). High counts for Bobolinks in the Bahamas this spring were 38 in North Bimini 5 May (WP) and 50+ at Clifton, New Providence 6 May (WP, CW, EB, BH). Single Boat-tailed Grackles were seen at Lyford Cay 11 Mar (CW) and at Marathon Mall, Nassau 11 Apr (WP); 3 were on Paradise Island 13 & 16 Mar (LHu, SB, WP). A Brown-headed Cowbird was at Gerace Research Centre 23 Mar (ph. PR). Two nesting pairs of **House Sparrows** at Cockburn Harbour, South Caicos 18 May (BNM, JH, LZ) provided the first record of this species for the Turks and Caicos.

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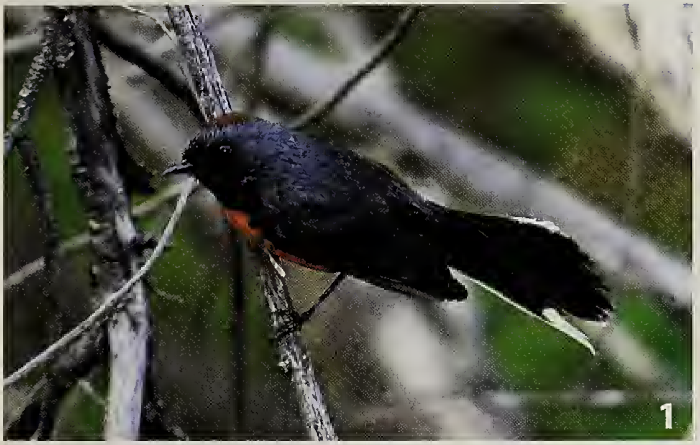
Pictorial Highlights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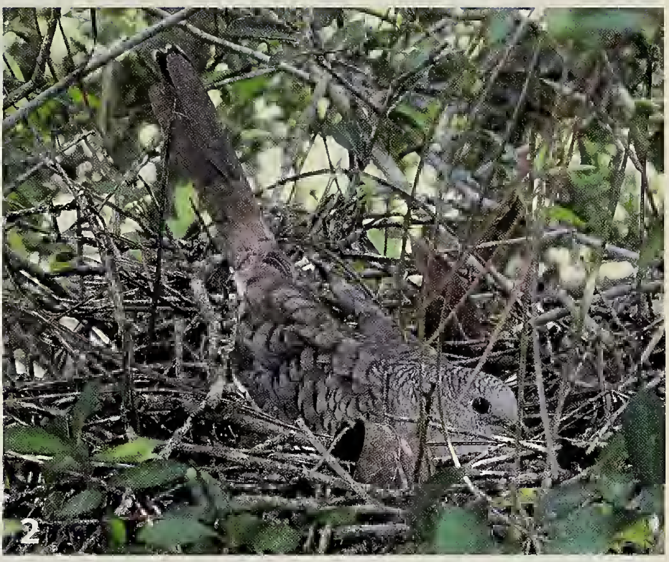
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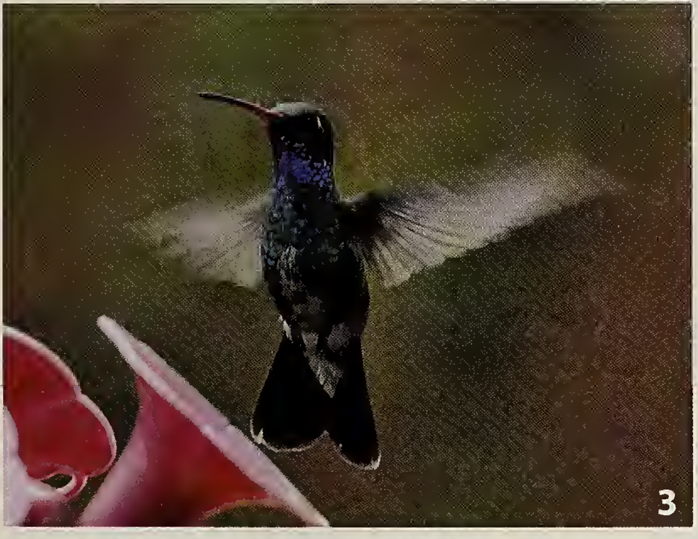
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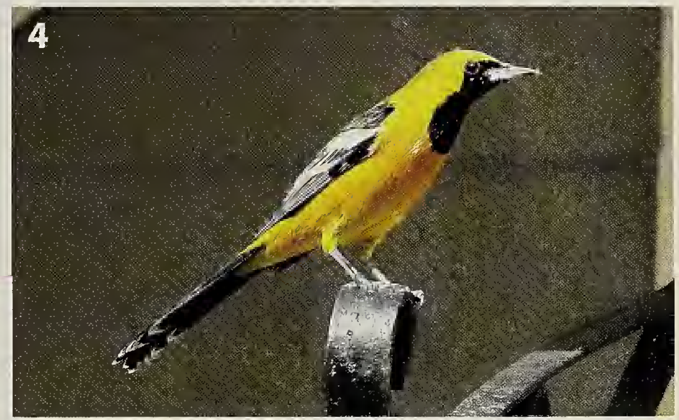
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1 • Arizona's eighth Slate-throated Redstart frequented Cave Creek Canyon 18-21 (here 18) May 2013. *Photograph by Chris West.*

2 • A pair of Inca Doves continued to be found in spring 2013 south of Magnolia Springs, Baldwin County, Alabama, where the species appears to have taken up residence ever since the fall of 2012. Over the period 4-27 (here 22) April, the first successful nesting in the state produced both eggs and fledglings. *Photograph by Bill Summerour.*

3 • Although known to nest in New Mexico only in Hidalgo County, Broad-billed Hummingbird has occurred in 16 of the state's 33 counties. This male was north to Escondida, Socorro County, 4-7 (here 5) May 2013. *Photograph by Nancy E. Hetrick.*

4 • Alabama's second Hooded Oriole frequented a feeder in Mobile, Mobile County from 17 December 2012 through the end of the winter period (here 19 January 2013). *Photograph by Bill Summerour.*

5 & 6 • This Gray Heron near Nikolski on Umnak Island in the eastern Aleutians was present 6-17 April 2013 (photograph of resting bird taken 6 April; flying bird taken 12 April). This bird might have wintered in the Aleutians or perhaps reached the site as an early overshoot from Asia. *Photographs by Danny Snigaroff.*

7 • This Common Redpoll appeared 14 May 2013 (here) at a feeder near Fort Morgan, Baldwin County and stayed through 18 May to establish Alabama's twelfth record ever and the latest by far. Incredibly, the most recent state record was from April 1994, a single bird on the Gulf Coast at Dauphin Island, Mobile County! *Photograph by Janice Neitzel.*

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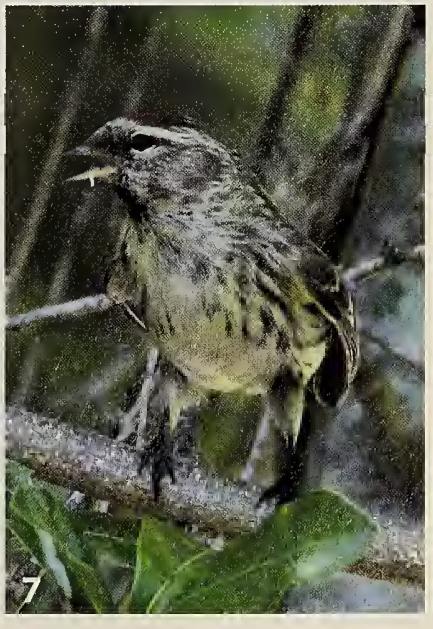
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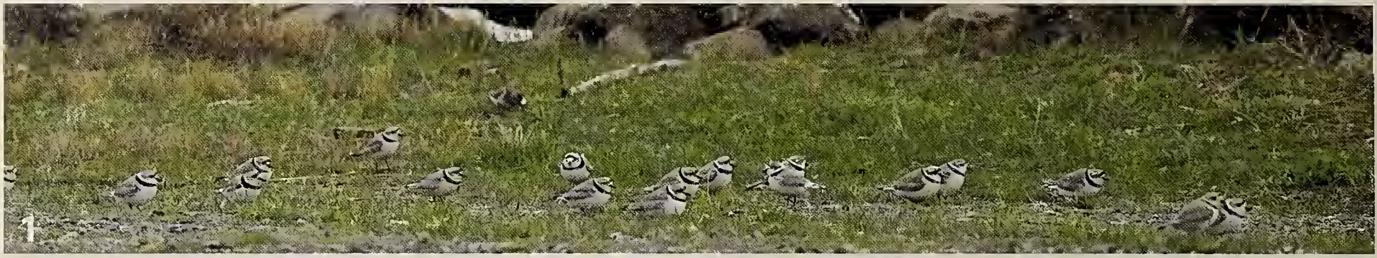
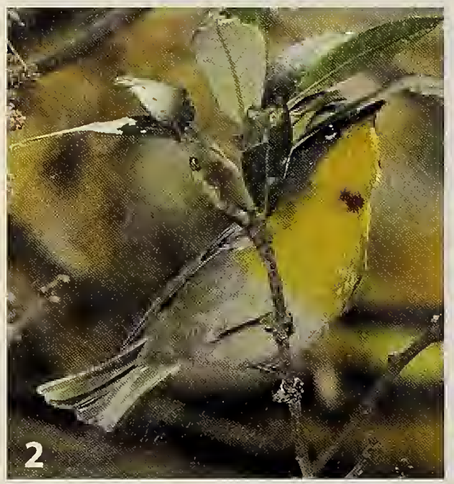
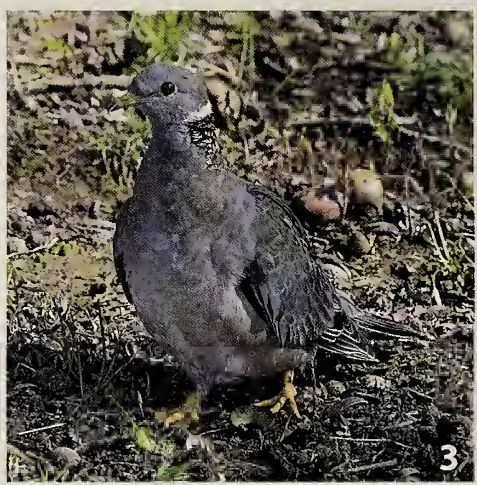
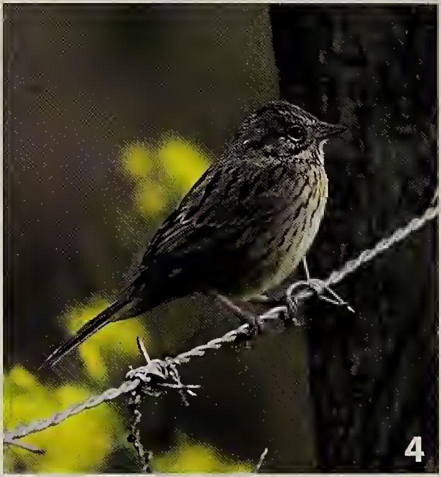
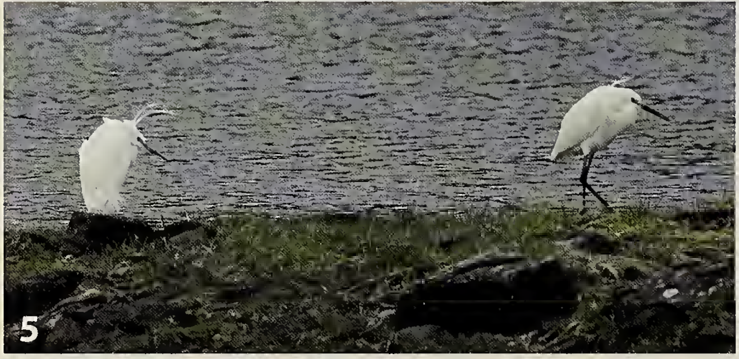
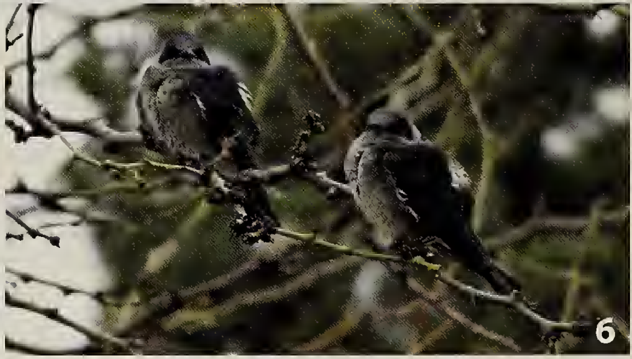


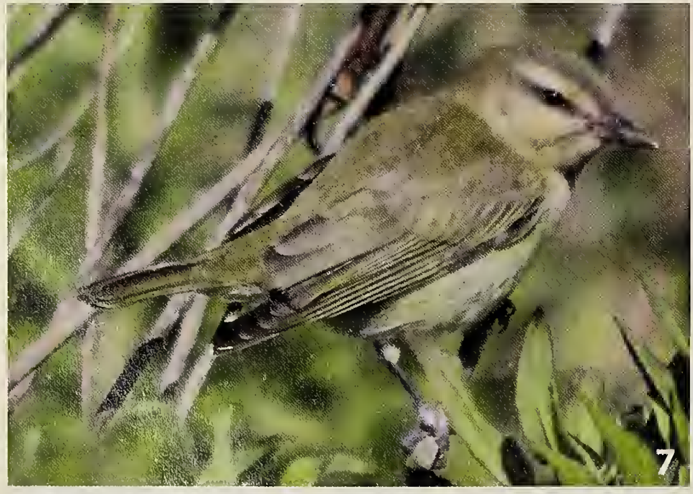












1 • It is a rare sight to see 21 interior Piping Plovers standing together. This flock gathered at Fort Supply Reservoir, Woodward County, Oklahoma 2 May 2013. *Photograph by David Wiggins.*

2 • This Crescent-chested Warbler was present in Miller Canyon, Arizona 24-26 (here 26) April 2013. There have been about a dozen previously accepted records in the state. *Photograph by Charles Melton.*

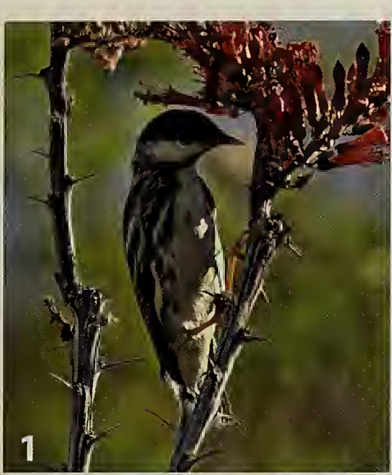
3 • On 11 (here 12) April 2013, this Band-tailed Pigeon appeared at a feeder in Monte Sano near Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama. After capturing several photographs, the homeowner quickly posted his find to the state listserve and welcomed regional birders into his home to view this cooperative visitor. The pigeon returned to the feeders frequently until disappearing 27 April. Alabama had only one previously accepted record for the species: a sight record from the Gulf Coast in 1971. *Photograph by Jerry D. Green.*

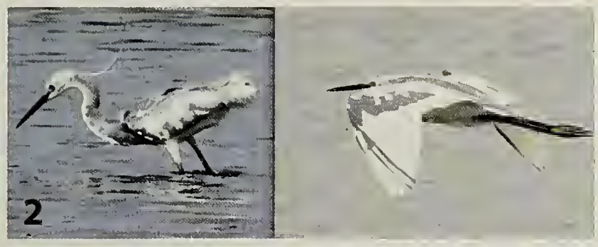
4 • Found shortly before dusk on 20 March 2013 at Los Quetzales Lodge in Guadalupe, Chiriquí Province, this Lincoln's Sparrow provided the fourth record for Panama and the first in 25 years. *Photograph by Jonathan Hruska.*

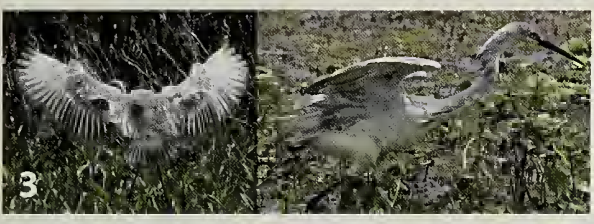
5 •There are eight previous records of Little Egret in Newfoundland, but these two at Fair Haven, Placentia Bay 12-23 (here 20) May 2013 furnished the first multiple sighting of the species for Newfoundland and Labrador. *Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.*

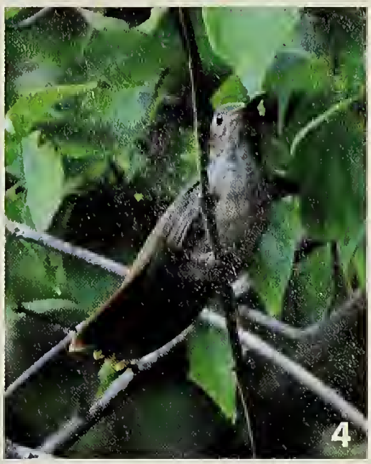
6 • These two Purple Martins of the eastern subspecies *subis* stopped by a farm south of Lamar, Prowers County, Colorado on 1 May 2013. This subspecies is rare in Colorado, but there are two breeding records. *Photograph by Jane Stulp.*

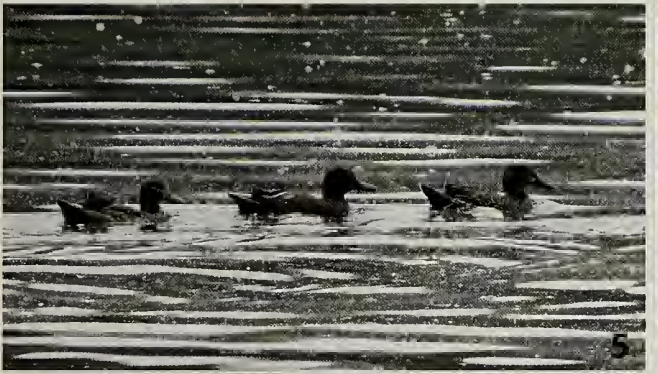
7• Some Black-whiskered Vireos show only very faint "whiskers," as appeared to be the case with this individual at Grand Isle, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana 13-19 (here 13) April 2013. This bird also appeared relatively small-billed compared to many observed in the western Gulf. Of the six subspecies, Florida-breeding *barbatulus* (also nests in the Bahamas, Caymans, and Cuba) has a very small bill, whereas nominate *altiloquus*, known as a vagrant in the Southeast (with two Louisiana specimens), is rather long-billed. So it is conceivable that this bird is of subspecies *barbatulus*, which winters in the Amazon. *Photograph by Phillip A. Wallace.*

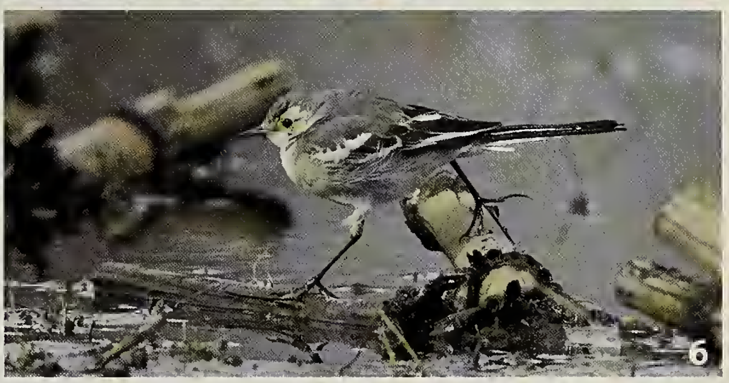


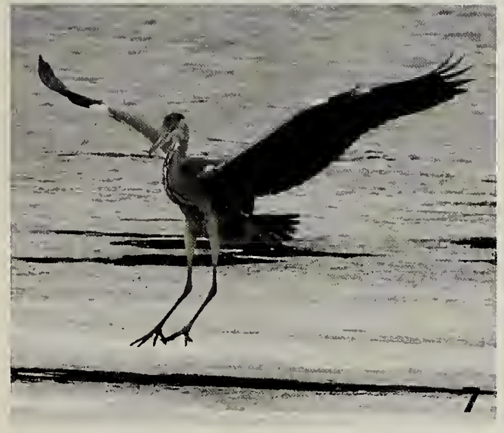


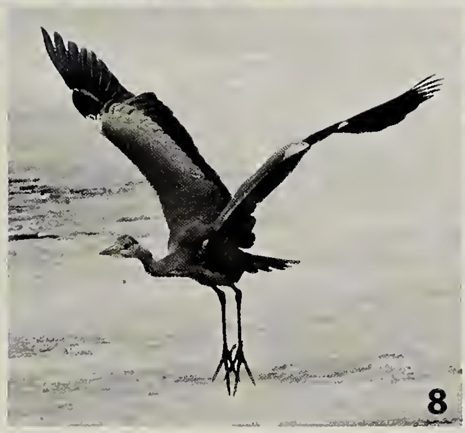


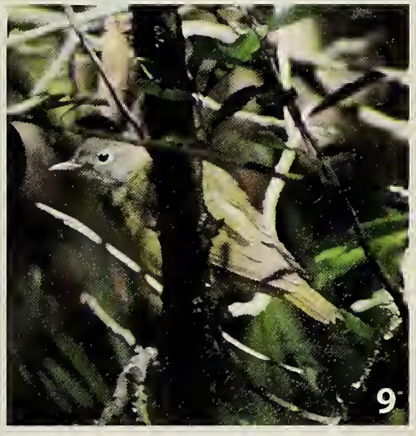












1 • One of a record ten Blackpoll Warblers found in New Mexico in spring 2013, this male was feeding in ocotillo blossoms at Oliver Lee State Park, Otero County on 1 May. *Photograph by Robert Borber.*

2 • At Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Brevard County, Florida, this heron hybrid was one of two such birds observed 23-25 (here 23) March 2013. The very long occipital plumes suggest that Little Egret could have been one of the parents, with Tricolored a plausible candidate for the other parent. *Photographs by Jennifer Zelik.*

3 • This unusual heron, also perhaps a hybrid, was discovered at Emeralda Marsh Conservation Area, Lake County, Florida 28 April 2013. *Photographs by Paul Hueber.*

4 • Buff-bellied Hummingbirds are now regular in winter in southern Louisiana, with most wintering birds departing by March/April. There are a few examples of birds remaining into early or mid-May, and even a few summer records. So it was noteworthy when a wintering adult male at a property near St. Gabriel, Iberville Parish lingered into early May 2013. Subsequent detections there of an adult female and two recently fledged juveniles 12-27 May 2013, including this one 19 May, raised the possibility of local breeding, which would be a first for the state. *Photograph by Donna L. Dittmann.*

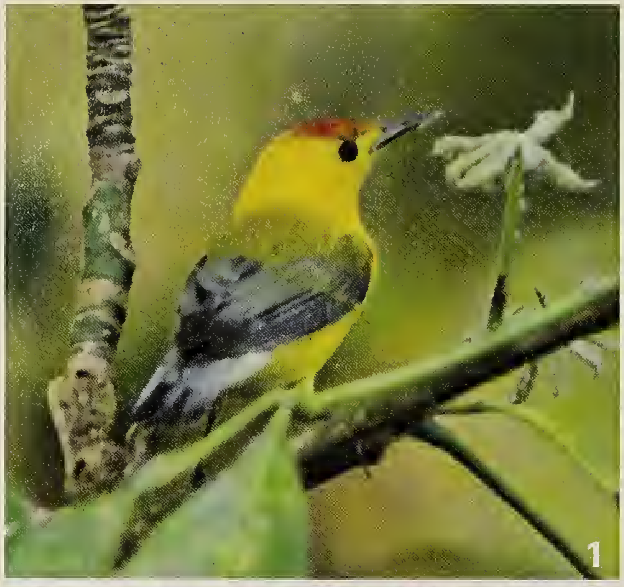
5 • Five Cinnamon Teal were discovered at Laguna de Chanmico, El Salvador 5 March 2013. With only seven records for El Salvador prior to winter 2012-2013, this was an impressive number. *Photograph by John van Dort.*

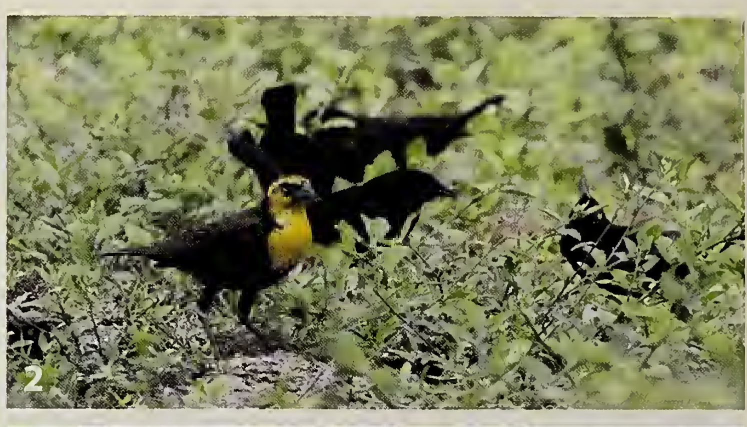
6 • British Columbia's long-staying Citrine Wagtail near Comox on Vancouver Island continued to delight local and visiting birders well into the spring 2013 season (here 11 March). *Photograph by Jukka Jantunen.*

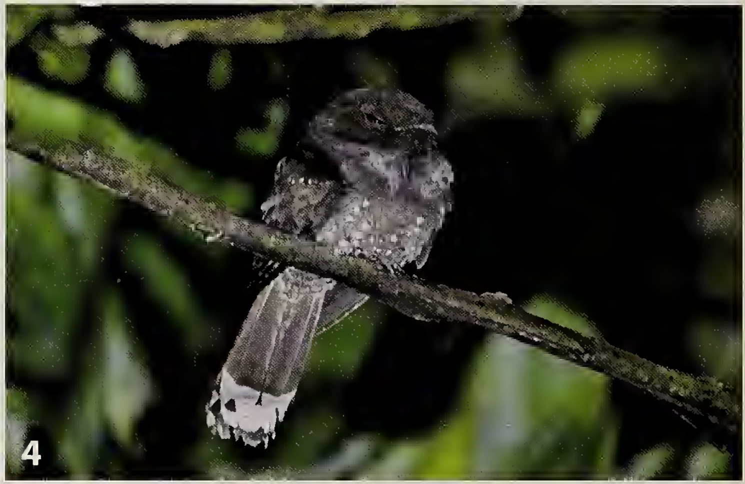
7 • This photograph shows the creamy white tibial feathering that help distinguish this Gray Heron from Great Blue Heron. This photograph was taken 10 March 2013—on the first day of the 75 days that this bird was known to be present at Little Hearts Ease, Trinity Bay, Newfoundland. Conflicting reports from local residents indicate it could have been there since the previous autumn. The previous onshore record of this species in the province came 11 October 1996 at Lear's Cove, Cape St. Mary's. *Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.*

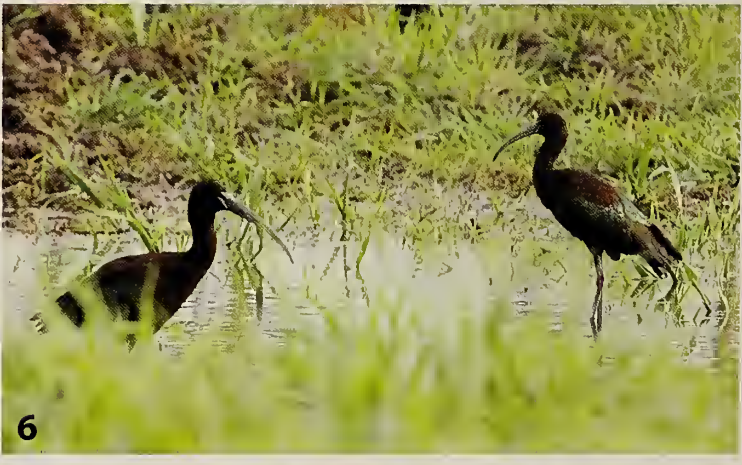
8 • The white "headlights" at the carpal joint (lesser primary coverts and alula complex) and the pale greater and median secondary coverts contrasting with the rest of the darker upperwing help confirm the identification of this Gray Heron at Little Hearts Ease, Trinity Bay, Newfoundland on 10 March 2013. *Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.*

9 • A challenging bird to photograph in dense coastal forest, this more-than-adequately documented Connecticut Warbler at Grand Isle, Jefferson Parish 4 May 2013 was just Louisiana's second record supported by hard evidence and a first for the state's southeast. *Photograph by R. D. Purrington.*









1 • This rusty-capped Prothonotary Warbler was found at the Parque Nacional Cuero y Salado, Honduras 11 March 2013 (see cover image). The bird's crown feathering did not appear to be pollen-stained, and its superficial resemblance to rusty-capped males of the local subspecies of Yellow (Mangrove) Warbler, *bryanti*, was noted. *Photograph by Steve Hamilton.*

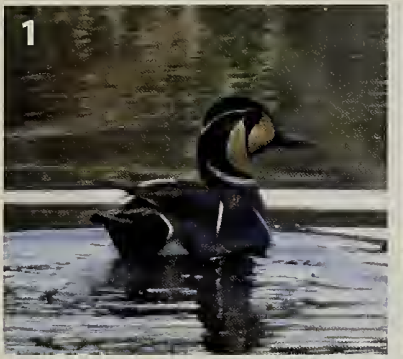
2 • This immature male Yellow-headed Blackbird was not hard to pick out of the flock of Bronzed Cowbirds feeding on the edge of a dry rice field along the highway on 5 April 2013 about 15 kilometers southwest of David, Chiriquí Province. There are just two previous records of the species for Panama. *Photograph by Craig Bennett.*

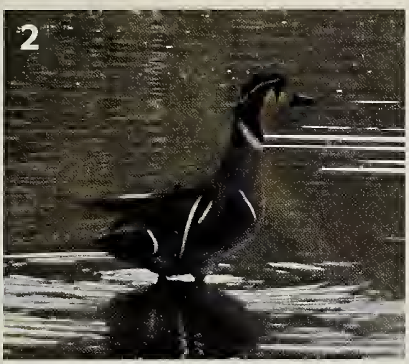
3 • Over the past decade, extralimital Crested Caracaras have been recorded with increasing frequency in both West and East, and recently New Jersey and Delaware recorded their first caracaras. This one was photographed near Holt's Landing, Sussex County, Delaware 8 March 2013. *Photograph by Sharon Lynn.*

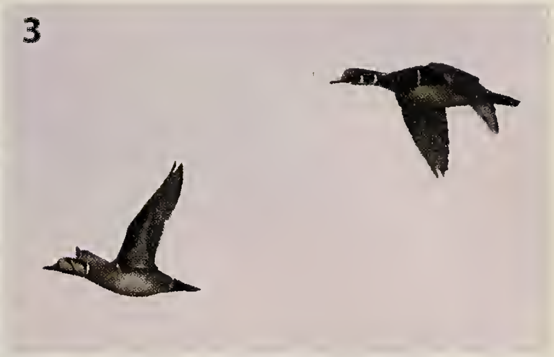
4 • Providing only the third record for Costa Rica, this Ocellated Poorwill, along with a second one heard only, was found 26-30 (here 26) April 2013 near Caño Negro. All three records have come from this area in the Caribbean lowlands near the Nicaragua border. *Photograph by Kevin Easley.*

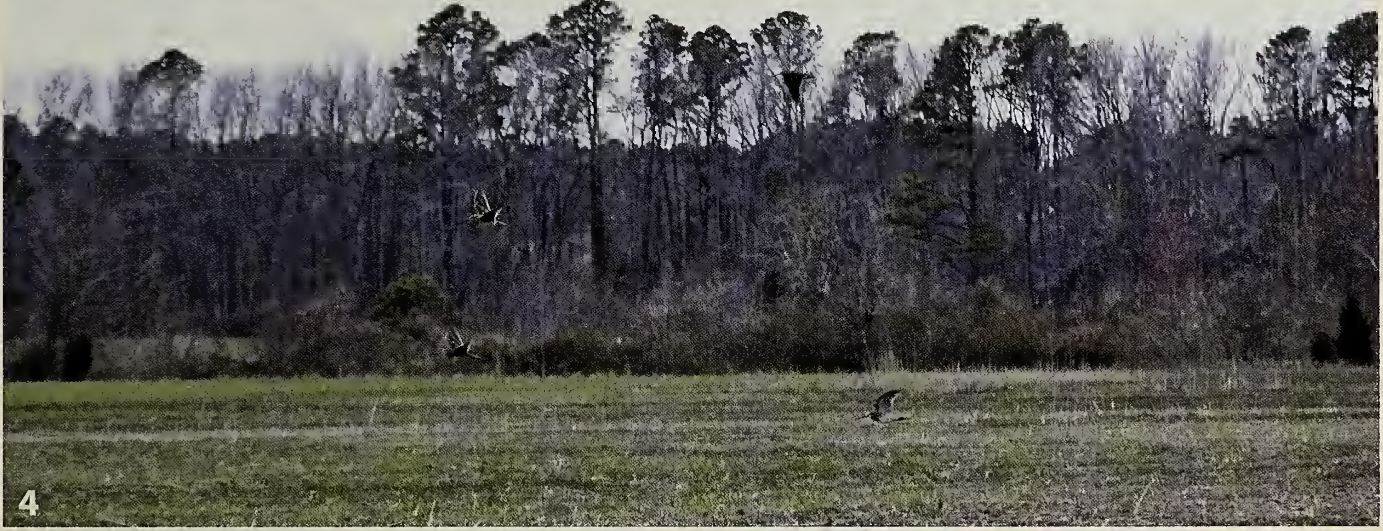
5 • This male Garganey, Missouri's second ever, was near Sumner, Chariton County 19-21 (here 20) April 2013. *Photograph by Allen Smith.*

6 • This *Plegadis* ibis and another like it were at Santa Alejandrina near Minatitlán, Veracruz 27 May 2013; it appears to combine characters of Glossy and White-faced and is probably a hybrid. *Photograph by Manuel Grosselet.*









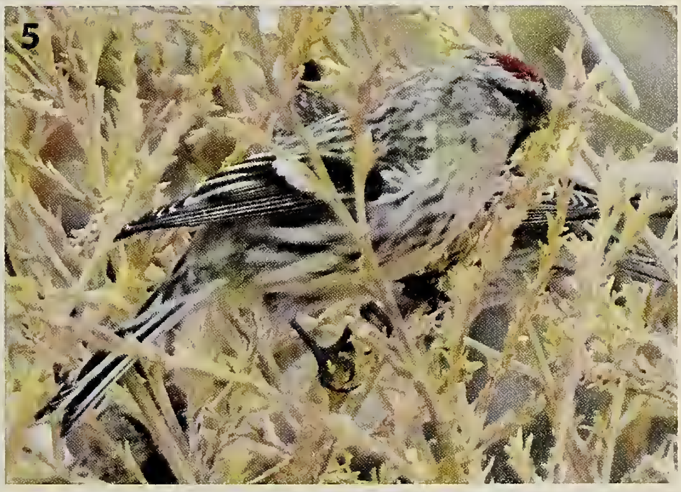
1, 2, & 3 • This striking male Baikal Teal found west of Missoula 28 April 2013 by Radd Icenoggle remained in the area through 14 May, providing Montana with its first record. *Photographs by Radd Icenoggle.*

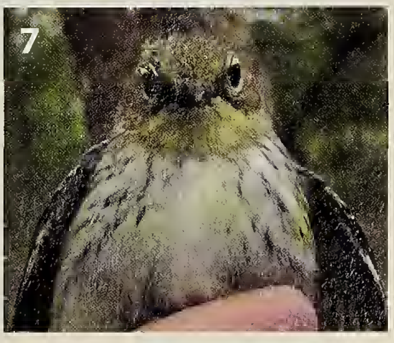
4 • The extensively white underwing coverts in the lowest snipe in this image are suggestive of Common Snipe. The photograph was taken in St. Mary's County, Maryland 24 March 2013. The identification of the bird is under discussion by the Maryland/D.C. Bird Records Committee. There are just a few records of the species for Atlantic Canada but none in the eastern United States. *Photograph by Mikey Lutmerding.*

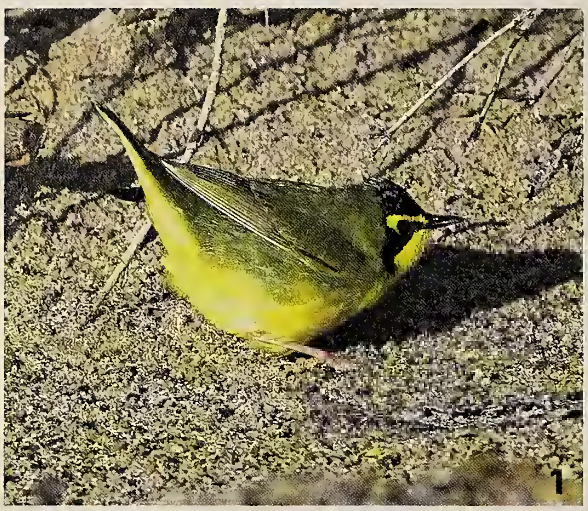
5 • Among the last of the winter's Hoary Redpoll influx in Colorado were three at North Sterling State Park, Logan County on 3 March 2013, including this coarsely marked individual. These birds represent the only record from the Colorado Plains. *Photograph by Steven G. Mlodinow.*

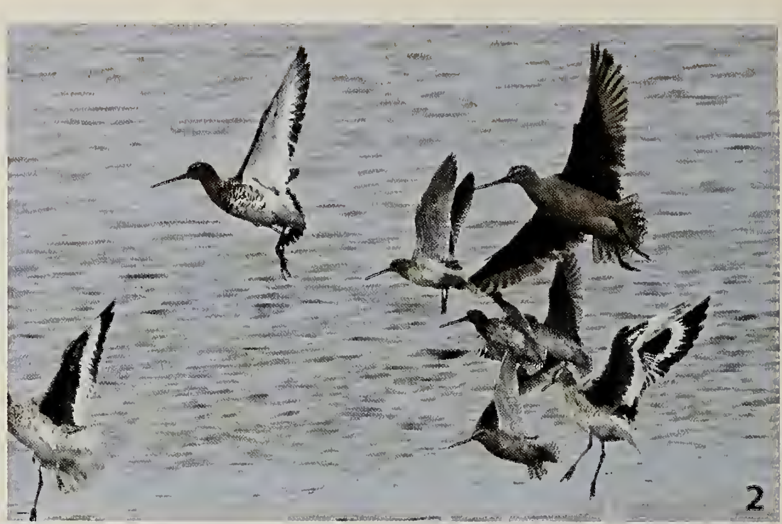
6 • Digiscoped with a small point-and-shoot camera, this poor-quality image was nevertheless sufficient to document North America's third Slender-billed Kite, the first in more than 50 years. It was found by a tour group near the Rancho Frío Ranger Station in Darién Province in eastern Panama on 10 March 2013. *Photograph by Isaac Pizarro.*

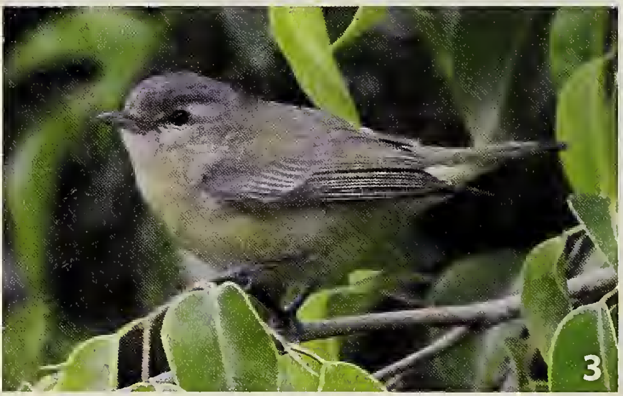
7 • Two Yellow-rumped Warblers were captured at a banding station in Seminole County, Florida 3 March 2013; both showed a faint yellow wash on the throat, and the adult male (here) also shows yellow on the forecrown and lores, which suggests perhaps some plumage aberration rather than hybrid derivation (but who knows?). *Photograph by Andrew Boyle.*

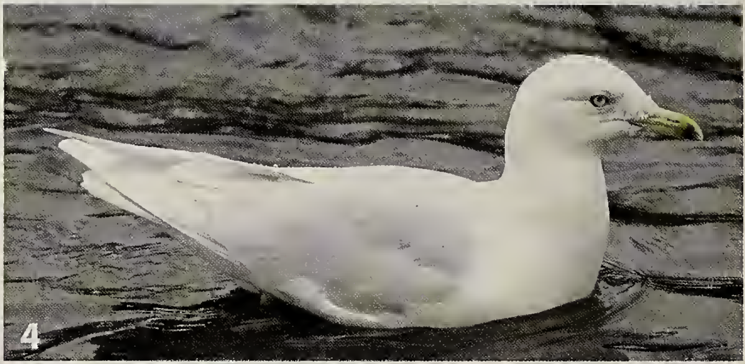


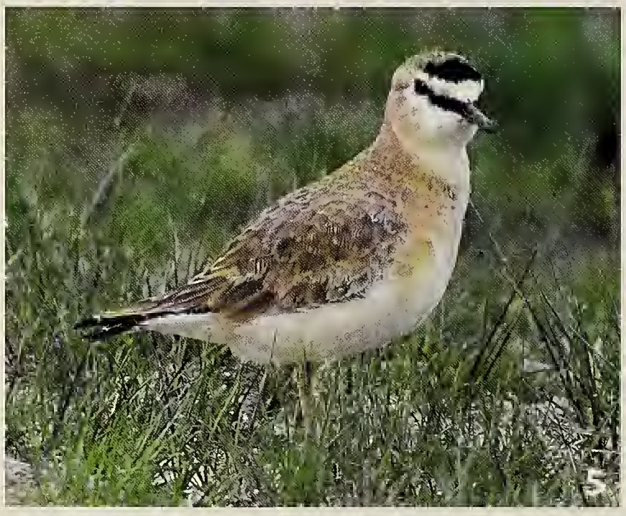


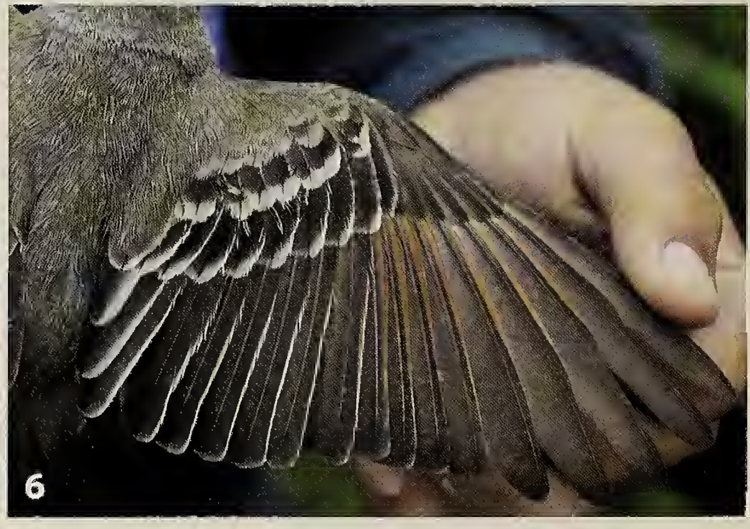












1 • A species rarely encountered in northwestern Pennsylvania, this Kentucky Warbler was found at Beach 10, Presque Isle State Park 26 April 2013. *Photograph by Jerry McWilliams.*

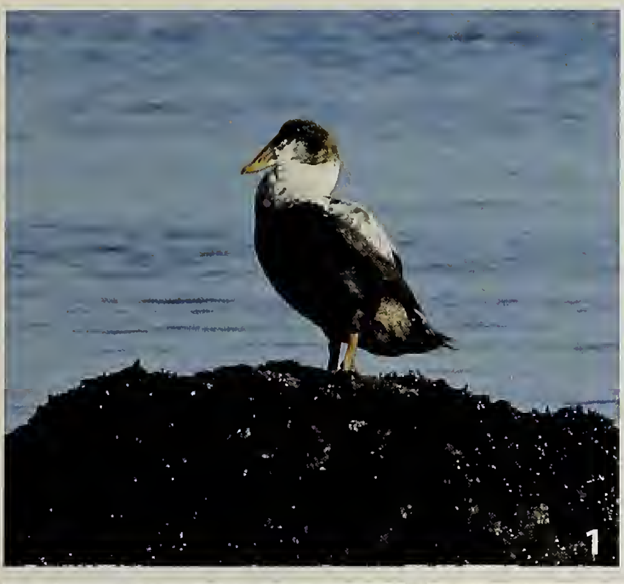
2 • After a few months' absence, the Black-tailed Godwit returned to Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Accomack County, Virginia 11 March 2013 and delighted birders through 27 (here 20) April, when in breeding plumage. Expert review suggests that this bird was of the *islandica* subspecies. *Photograph by Jim Elder.*

3 • This rather dull Philadelphia Vireo was photographed at Parque el Haya in Xalapa, Veracruz 6 March 2013; this species is expected here in migration, but the date of 6 March indicates more probably a wintering individual. *Photograph by Amy McAndrews.*

4 • This attractive gull returned to the Westbrook, Maine riverfront for its third consecutive winter (here 6 March 2013), and discussion continues about its identity. The bird's plumage appears closest to Iceland Gull of subspecies *glaucoides*, but the bird is rather large and bulky, rather large even for subspecies *kumlieni*, leading some to suggest that the bird might not even be an Iceland Gull, or at least, not a pure one. *Photograph by Derek Lovitch.*

5 • Two Mountain Plovers visited White Rock Bay at Antelope Island State Park, Davis County 10 April 2013, making only the second documented record for Utah in the past 20 years and the tenth overall. *Photograph by Paul Higgins.*

6 • This Ash-throated Flycatcher was mist-netted at the Santa Alejandrina marshes, Veracruz 26 March 2013. This species is unexpected at this locale, which is probably at the edge of its Atlantic Slope wintering range in Mexico. *Photograph by Manuel Grosselet.*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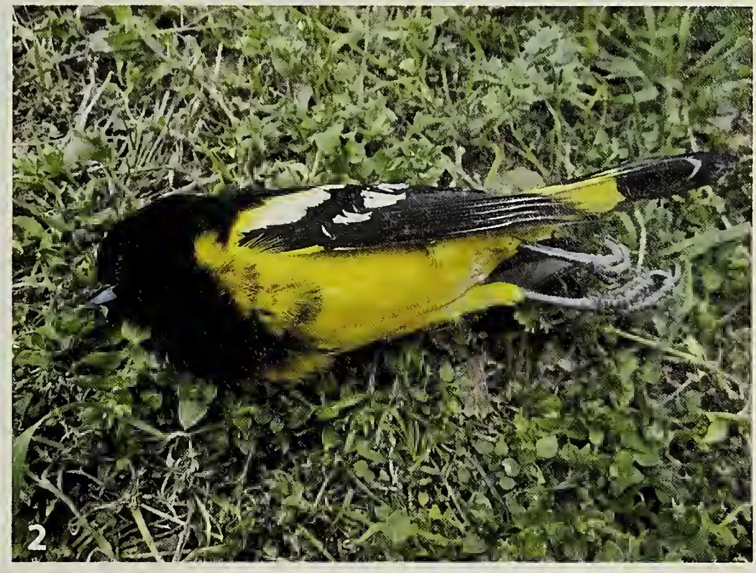
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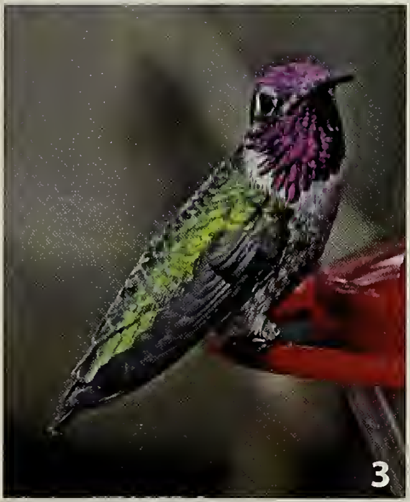
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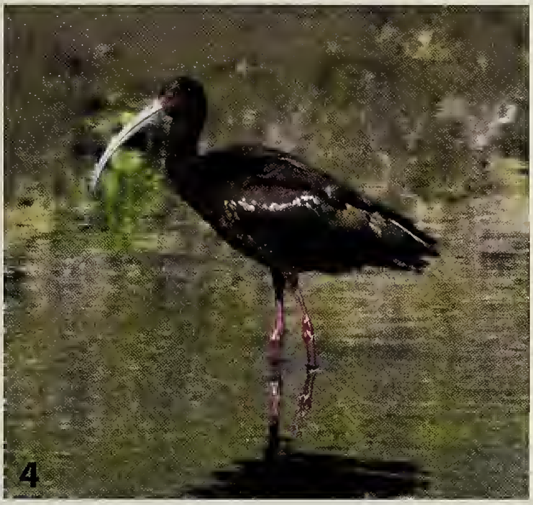
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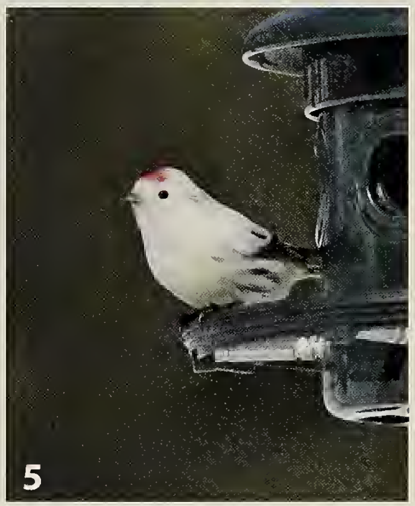
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1 • Adding to just four prior records south of British Columbia and Alaska, this subadult male Common Eider at Coos Bay 16 (here 17) March through 11 April 2013 was Oregon's first. This image shows the distinctive orange bill of the expected Pacific subspecies *v-nigrum*. Other photographs show the telltale black "V" on the chin, unique to Pacific birds. *Photograph by David Irons.*

2 • Found deceased was this adult male Scott's Oriole, the first of its species documented in Okahoma, at Beaver River Wildlife Management Area, Beaver County on 18 April 2013. *Photograph by Evan Tanner.*

3 • This Anna's Hummingbird wintering at Newark, Delaware molted into definitive adult male plumage by 7 April 2013 (here). *Photograph by Howard Eskin.*

4 • This adult *Plegadis* ibis in breeding plumage at Tulsa, Oklahoma 30 April 2013 looks very much like a White-faced but lacks white feathering around the facial skin. It was thought to be a Glossy x White-faced hybrid, increasingly common where the two species meet—which is an increasingly large part of the continent. *Photograph by James W. Arterburn.*

5 • This leucistic Hoary Redpoll was a fetching feeder visitor near Priddis, Alberta on 15 March 2013. *Photograph by Pat Diehl.*

6 • At Marienville, Pennsylvania, these Evening Grosbeaks brightened a long winter 2 March 2013. Sightings of the species continued in northern Pennsylvania well into May. *Photograph by Geoff Malosh.*

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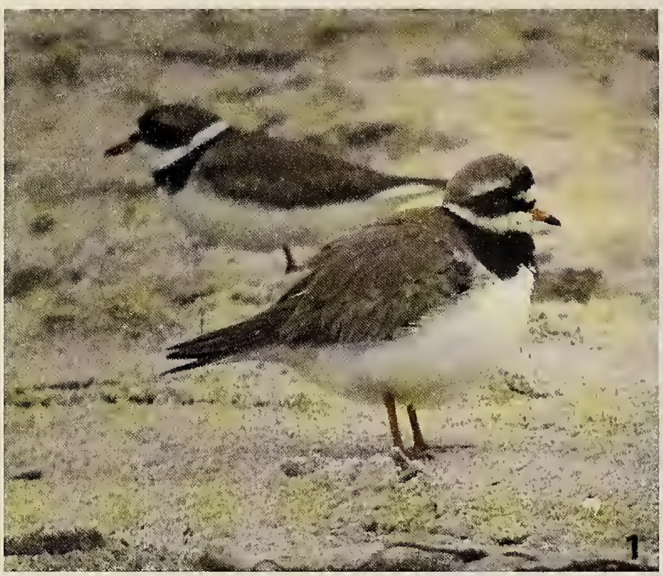
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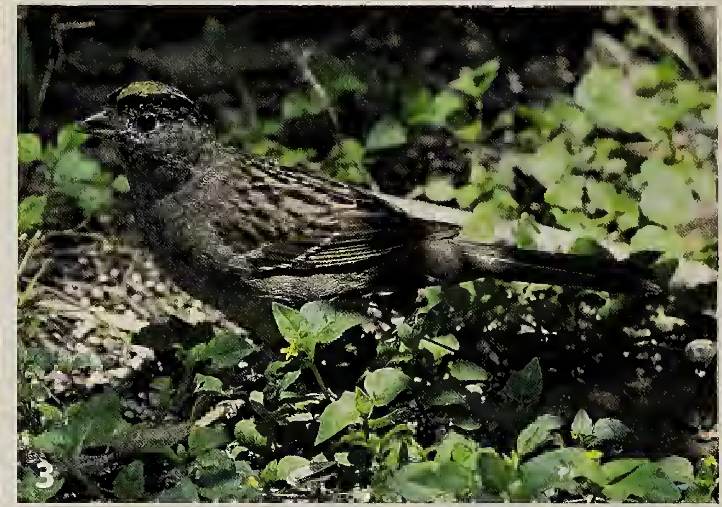
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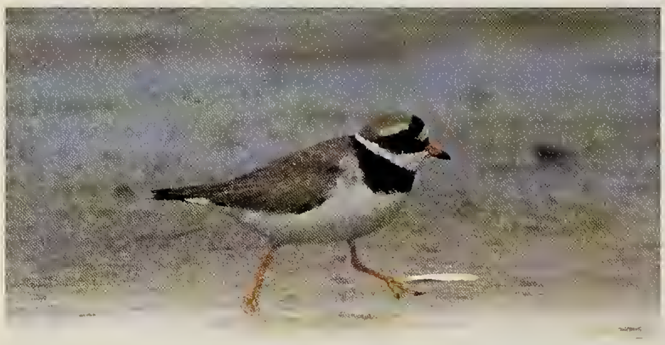
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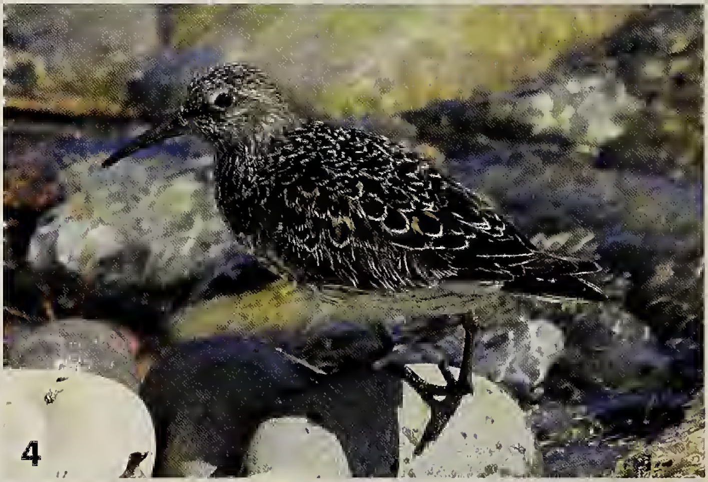
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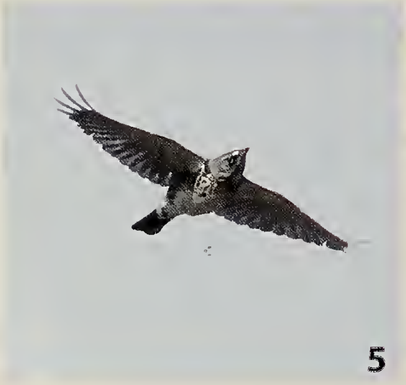
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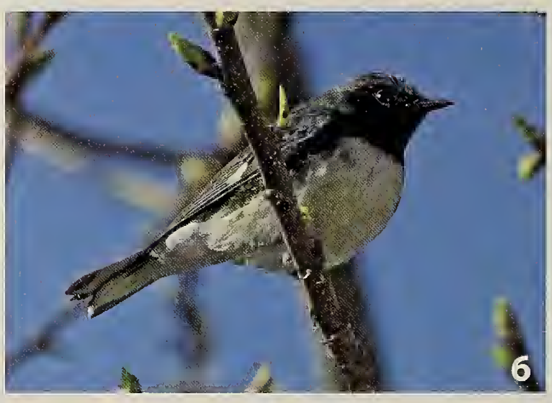
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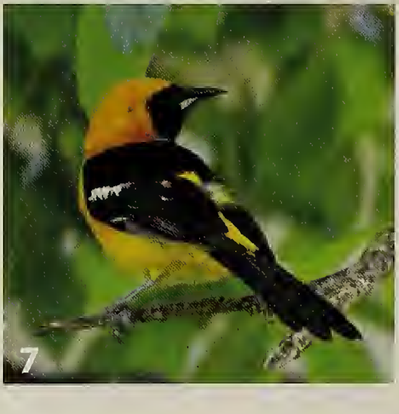
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1 & 2 • This male Common Ringed Plover, representing Massachusetts's third record, was seen by many observers 20-23 May 2013 at Plum Island. *Photographs by Jeremiah Trimble (top, 23 May) and Suzanne Sullivan (20 May).*

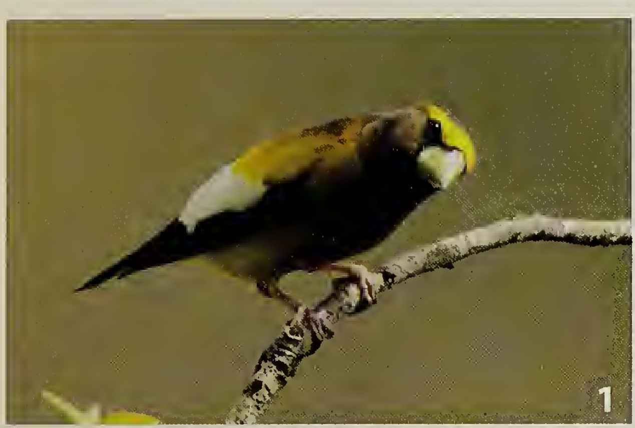
3 • Two Golden-crowned Sparrows were documented in Texas in spring 2013, with one at El Paso and the other at, of all places, South Padre Island, Cameron County. It drew lots of attention during its stay from 17 (here) through 21 May. *Photograph by Erik Breden.*

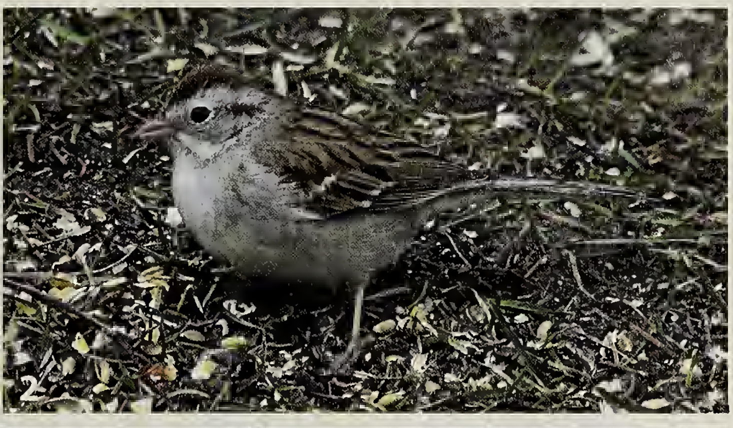
4 • This striking Purple Sandpiper in breeding plumage was present at Inglewood Bird Sanctuary along the Bow River in Calgary, Alberta 9-10 (here 9) 2013. It represented the first record for Alberta. *Photograph by Eddy Matuod.*

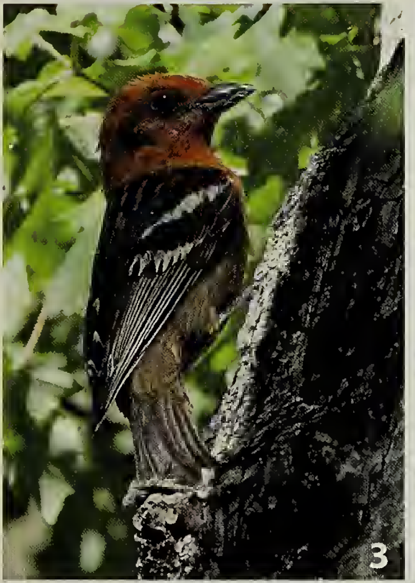
5 • Hundreds of observers came out to Carlisle to see the second Fieldfare for Massachusetts 17-23 (here 17) March 2013; the first record, in 1986, was found not far away. *Photograph by Jeremiah Trimble.*

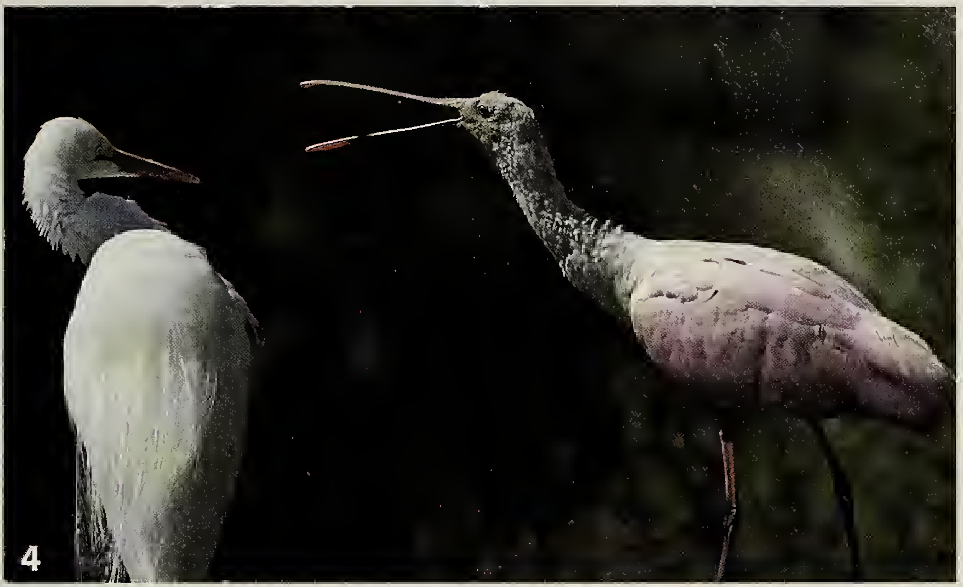
6 • Saskatchewan's first spring record of Black-throated Blue Warbler was established by this male, found at Saskatoon 8 May 2013. There are about nine previous records of the species, mainly from fall. *Photograph by Blake Maybank.*

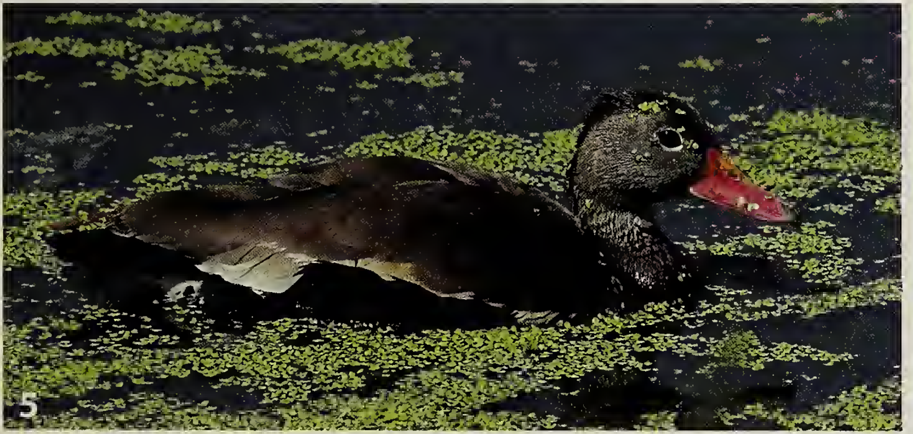
7 • This Hooded Oriole was present in a Garrison, Butler County yard 25-28 (here 27) May 2013, furnishing the first documented record for Nebraska. *Photograph by Mark Brogie.*

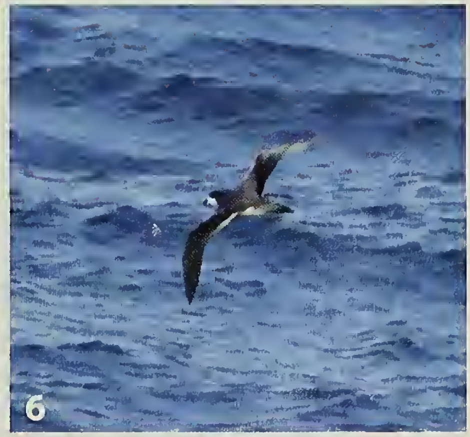












1 • Nowadays a "rare winter finch" in the Southern Atlantic region, this male Evening Grosbeak was one of nine attending feeders in Swain County, North Carolina 12-20 (here 13) April 2013. *Photograph by Phil Fowler.*

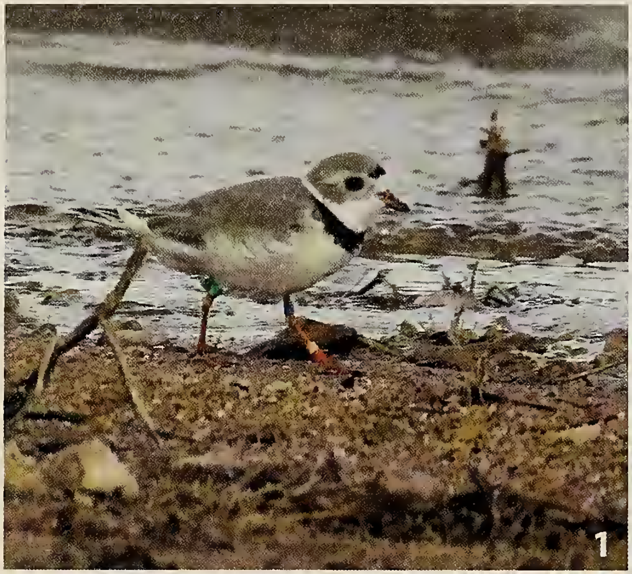
2 • This sparrow at Roberval, Québec 2-3 (here 2) May 2013 was presumed to be a Field Sparrow x Chipping Sparrow, which is a seldom documented hybrid combination. *Photograph by Josée Rousseau.*

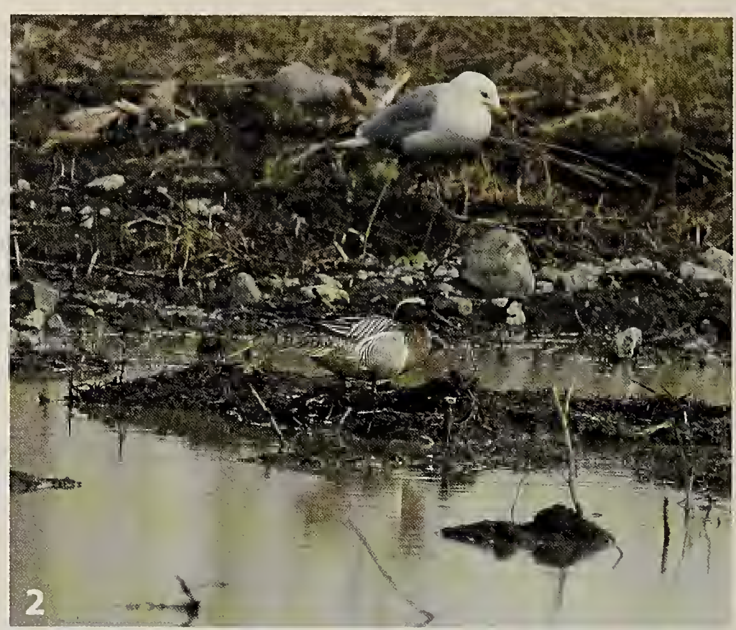
3 • Although there have been ten previous records of Flame-colored Tanager for Texas, this male at Boot Spring in the Chisos Mountains, Brewster County was the first to establish a territory. It was found 6 (here 9) May 2013, paired with a Western Tanager. *Photograph by Byron Stone.*

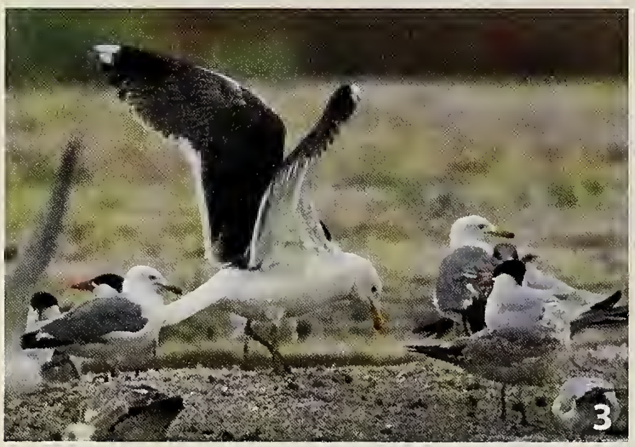
4 • This young Roseate Spoonbill was a very early spring arrival at Garden City, South Carolina 25 March 2013. *Photograph by Phil Lanoue.*

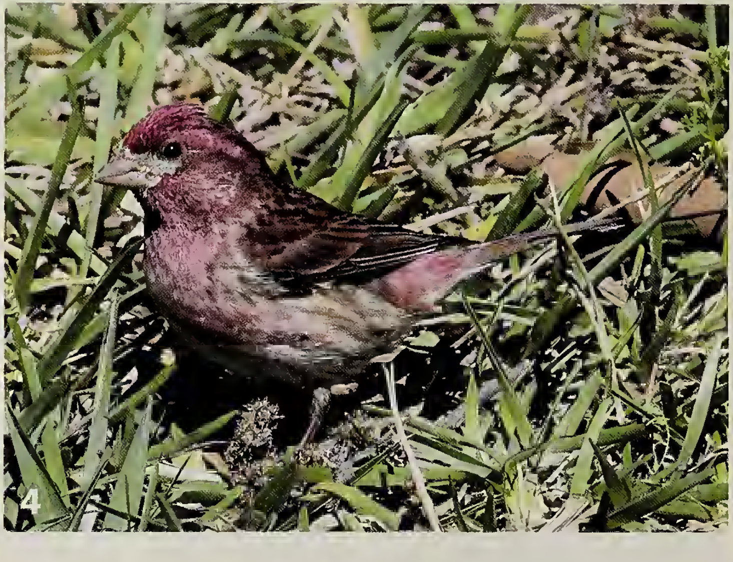
5 • Six Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks visited Mount Desert High School, Bar Harbor, Maine 27-31 (here 28) May 2013. These birds, part of an increasing pattern of late spring and summer occurrences into the Northeast coincident with the expansion of the species in the Southeast, made the third record for Maine. *Photograph by Louis R. Bevier.*

6 • Oregon's first verified Hawaiian Petrel was this bird seen about 60 kilometers off Cape Blanco, Curry County 3 May 2013; a few prior records were of birds identifiable only as Galapagos/Hawaiian Petrel. *Photograph by Ryan Merrill.*









1 • Rare in New Mexico, this Piping Plover at Brantley Lake, Eddy County 4 May 2013 had been color-banded as a chick on the Missouri River in South Dakota in June 2012. *Photograph by Matthew J. Baumann.*

2 • This adult male Garganey, one of two found in Québec in spring 2013, paused in a flooded field at Mirabel 27 (here 28) April through 3 May. *Photograph by Louise Simard.*

3 • California's first well-documented Great Black-backed Gull was this adult found and photographed at the north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside County, on 1 May 2013 and seen again four days later. This brings the total number of gulls recorded at the Salton Sea to an impressive 20 species, equalling or exceeding any other site in the western hemisphere. *Photograph by Mark Chappell.*

4 • Another jaw-dropping find at South Padre Island, Cameron County, Texas was this beautiful male Purple Finch. It provided a first record for the Lower Rio Grande Valley during its short stay 2-4 (here 4) April 2013. *Photograph by Dan Jones.*

5 & 6 • This McCown's Longspur, the second for Tennessee and the first individual photographed, was in Hamilton County 23 March 2013. *Photographs by Kevin Calhoun.*

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- *Scholarships Available: The ABA, through the generous support of our sponsors, provides limited scholarships to help young people who are interested in birds to attend our camps. Go to aba.org/yb/scholarships.html for details.*

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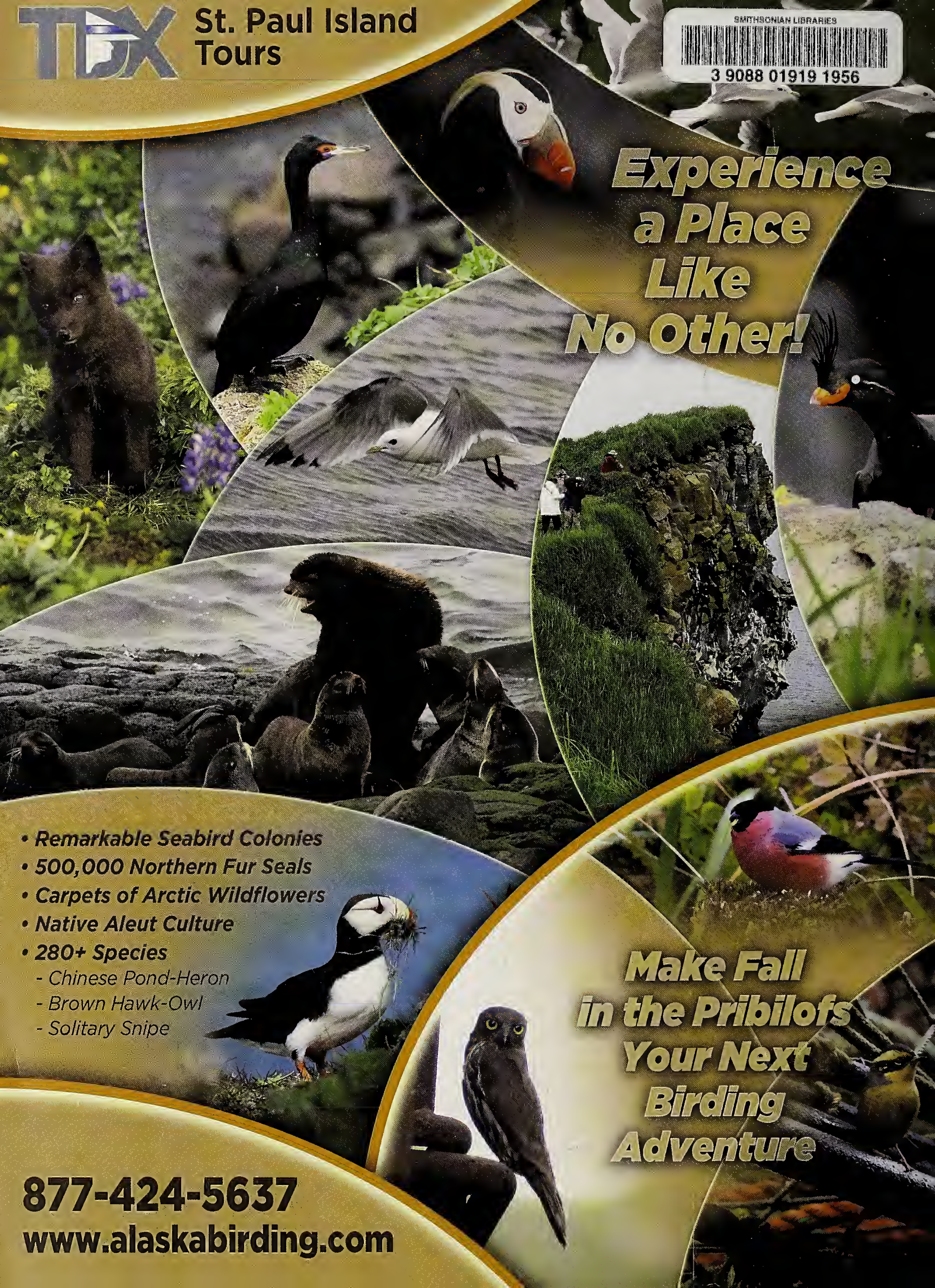

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